



**California Association of Local Behavioral Health
Boards and Commissions**

September 7, 2022

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Via Email: Leg.Unit@gov.ca.gov

Subject: AB 738 Community mental health services: mental health boards – Request for Veto

Dear Governor Newsom,

The Governing Board of the California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards & Commissions (CALBHB/C) is opposed to AB 738.

Adding the veteran/veterans advocate membership requirement creates the precedent for adding other sector-based requirements (sectors that are equally important.)

Additional complexity can stymie boards and is unneeded since [WIC 5604.2](#) (Duty #4) already specifies that the mental health board shall: "Review and approve the procedures used to ensure citizen and professional involvement at all stages of the planning process. Involvement shall include individuals with lived experience of mental illness and their families, community members, advocacy organizations, and mental health professionals. It shall also include other professionals that interact with individuals living with mental illnesses on a daily basis, such as education, emergency services, employment, health care, housing, law enforcement, local business owners, social services, seniors, transportation, and veterans."

In support of CA's 59 local mental/behavioral health boards who already must comply with pages of requirements (attached), we ask you to veto AB 738.

Sincerely,

Benjamin G. Benavidez, President

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Attachment: CA WIC 5604 and 5848—Mental Health Boards: Bylaws, Duties, Expenses, Membership (Membership Requirements are on Page 3.)