



# YOUTH LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

## Use Your Voice

March 25th, 2024

The Honorable Richard D. Roth  
Chair, Senate Health Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 7510  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### **Re: SB 1320 (Wahab) Behavioral Health Integrated Coverage – SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Roth:

**Youth Leadership Institute is writing to express our support of SB 1320 (Wahab)**, which requires health plans and insurers to establish a process to reimburse providers for mental health and substance use disorder treatment services that are integrated with primary care. This bill is part of the Senate's bipartisan legislative package "Working Together for a Safer California."

yli partners with thousands of youth across the state, the majority of whom are low-income youth of color. In recent years, mental health and substance use have become the core issues around which most of our programming focuses. Our youth depend on us to pass policies that work effectively to address these health crises.

The Department of Managed Health Care is conducting behavioral health investigations to understand any challenges enrollees are experiencing accessing behavioral health services. The first Phase One Summary Report identified violations of the law and barriers to care. However, integrating behavioral health care services is not required under existing law. DMHC recommends that all health plans regulated by them have policies and procedures for integrated behavioral health care services.

Integrated Models for Behavioral Health and Primary Care are essential for addressing the needs of individuals with mental health and substance use conditions. These models aim to seamlessly combine primary care and behavioral health services, ensuring comprehensive and holistic care for patients. Whether individuals seek help from specialty behavioral health

providers or primary care settings, integrated models promote collaboration and enhance overall health outcomes.

In an effort to address the fentanyl crisis, SB 1320 contributes to the Senate's evidence-based approach to increase access to treatment by building on DMHC's recommendations. For these reasons, we respectfully request an **AYE** vote on **SB 1320 (Wahab)**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PB', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

PATRICIA BARAHONA

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Youth Leadership Institute