



Los Angeles
County Council

March 5, 2018

The Honorable Jim Wood
Chair, Assembly Committee on Health
State Capitol, Room 6005
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1795 (Gipson) – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Wood:

National Alliance on Mental Illness Los Angeles County Council is pleased to support AB 1795, which would give local emergency medical services agencies the authority to allow well-trained paramedics to transport people to specified mental health urgent care centers or to sobering centers, if available in their county. These alternate destination community paramedicine programs allow patients to have more direct access to appropriate care.

In 2016, hospital emergency departments statewide received over 14.5 million visits, an increasing volume of recipients that has resulted in severe overcrowding and high wait times. Mental health urgent care centers and sobering centers are well-equipped to connect patients to specialized care and to supportive services.

Providing local emergency medical services agencies with the authority to craft their own innovative plans for emergency care is a necessary action to not only improve patient safety and health care outcomes but to decompress overcrowded hospital emergency departments.

For these reasons, National Alliance on Mental Illness Los Angeles County Council strongly urges your support for AB 1795.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brittney Weissman".

Brittney Weissman
Executive Director