



Los Angeles
County Council

September 3, 2015

Honorable Governor Brown:

This letter is from both our organizations: the National Alliance on Mental Illness Los Angeles County Council, a mental health education and advocacy organization representing thousands of consumer and family members in Los Angeles County, and the Psychiatric Education & Research Foundation PER, a 501(c)(3) charitable, non-profit philanthropic and educational organization founded in 1990, to promote the goals of the Southern California Psychiatric Society and its member psychiatrists.

We are seeking your signature for AB 1194 (Eggman). AB 1194 corrects a misunderstanding of WIC 5150 detention that often prevents or delays potentially life-saving emergency psychiatric care for our family members. AB 1194 improves public safety by clarifying WIC 5150 criteria for involuntary detention by evaluators, especially first responders. Many first responders currently erroneously believe that potential imminent harm must be directly observed before safety measures can be taken.

AB 1194 corrects this situation by adding language to WIC 5150 to explicitly state that imminence is not required for determination of probable cause under WIC 5150. ("For purposes of this section, danger is not limited to danger of imminent harm.") Please sign this AB 1194, as this will help citizens who are family members with mental illness get timely care, decrease avoidable arrests and incarceration, save lives and avoid tragedies.

Thanking you for your consideration.

Respectfully Yours,

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

Brittney Weissman, Executive Director, NAMI LACC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maria T Lymberis, MD".

Maria T Lymberis, MD, Founding President, PER Foundation