



MAYOR REX RICHARDSON

September 5, 2024

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

RE: Support for AB 1788 (Quirk-Silva)—Mental Health Multidisciplinary Personnel Team

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach (City), I urge your signature on AB 1788. This bill aims to expedite the identification, assessment, and linkage of justice-involved individuals diagnosed with a mental illness to housing and supportive services. The City supports regional initiatives that encourage mental health treatment programs, funding for substance use treatment, and homelessness intervention efforts instead of incarceration-only solutions.

AB 1788 would authorize counties to form mental health multidisciplinary personnel teams for justice-involved individuals diagnosed with a mental illness, both during incarceration and post-release. Furthermore, the legislation would require the sharing of information among provider agencies to coordinate supportive services and ensure continuity of care. Under this proposal, each county would develop protocols for the sharing of information and would require each county to provide a copy of its protocols to the State Department of Health Care Services. AB 1788 will contribute to improving the mental health treatment for justice-involved individuals.

The City's [2024 Point-in-Time \(PIT\) Count](#) revealed that many people experiencing homelessness have underlying long-term trauma, mental health, and/or substance use concerns. According to the City's 2024 Point in Time Count, approximately 34 percent of survey respondents self-reported having a severe mental illness. These conditions impair cognitive functioning and challenge a person's ability to maintain health, wellness, housing, and employment. AB 1788 is in line with the City's commitment to reducing the number of people experiencing homelessness in Long Beach and implementing upstream homelessness prevention strategies.

For these reasons, the City requests your signature on AB 1788.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rex Richardson", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mayor Rex Richardson
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 65th District
The Honorable Josh Lowenthal, State Assembly, 69th District