



PREVENTING VIOLENCE
AND DEVELOPING
YOUTH LEADERS

March 31, 2014

The Honorable Ed Hernandez
Senate Health Committee
State Capitol, Room 2191
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: SB 1150 (Hueso and Correa)--Support

Dear Senator Hernandez:

On behalf of Youth ALIVE!, a violence prevention and intervention non-profit in Oakland, I am writing to urge your support for SB 1150(Hueso and Correa). SB 1150 would allow reimbursement for mental health services provided on the same day as medical services at federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) and rural health clinics (RHCs).

SB 1150 recognizes that in order to best provide integrated behavioral health services to patients, many FQHCs and RHCs provide medical and mental health services on the same day, which is the hallmark of the Integrated Primary Behavioral Health Care model. However, Medi-Cal will not reimburse for a patient to see a primary care provider and a mental health provider/behavioral health specialist on the same day. Only one visit is reimbursed in this situation. From our work with violently injured youth we witness the reticence of young people to seek medical services at all and mental health services specifically. Allowing reimbursement for both services on the same day may encourage people to utilize services they need.

While California's State plan amendment and Medi-Cal Provider Manual will permit FQHCs and RHCs to be reimbursed for same-day medical and dental services, mental health services are excluded. Federal law permits reimbursement for same-day medical and mental health visits and for federal matching funds to be provided for states that choose to allow same-day visits. California, however, does not take advantage of these federal funds. California code would be amended to reflect that multiple visits on the same-day are independently reimbursable if a clinic or health center patient sees more than one health care professional of a different discipline or specialty, if the patient is being treated for a different diagnosis.

Youth ALIVE! strongly supports **SB 1150** and we respectfully ask for your AYE vote on this bill.

Sincerely,

Anne Marks
Executive Director

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