



City Manager's Office – Intergovernmental Relations

City of Arts & Innovation

May 17, 2022

The Honorable Anthony J. Portantino
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
California State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento CA 95814

RE: SB 1143 (Roth) Acute Care Psychiatric Hospital Loan Fund – As Amended 5/2/2022 - SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Portantino:

On behalf of the City of Riverside, I write to express our support for SB 1143 (Roth), legislation which establishes a new funding process to provide zero-interest loans to qualifying county applicants for the purpose of constructing or renovating acute care psychiatric hospitals.

Psychiatric beds are an essential infrastructure for meeting the needs of individuals with severe mental health conditions. However, due to the shortage of beds statewide, hundreds of people in need of psychiatric care are held in less appropriate facilities while awaiting space in inpatient care settings. SB 1143 seeks to help address the mental health crisis.

SB 1143 would provide qualifying counties with an opportunity to access scarce infrastructure dollars to renovate or construct new acute psychiatric hospitals. This bill has the potential to reduce patient overcrowding in emergency rooms and improve patient outcomes.

For these reasons, the City of Riverside supports SB 1143. If you have questions regarding the City's position, please contact Chekesha Gilliam, Intergovernmental Relations Officer at (951) 826-2419 or CGilliam@riversideca.gov.

Sincerely,

Patricia Lock Dawson
Mayor
City of Riverside

cc: Members and Consultants, Senate Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Richard Roth
City of Riverside Legislative Delegation