



February 22, 2018

The Honorable Mike Gipson
California State Assembly
State Capitol Building, Room 3173
Sacramento, CA 95814
VIA FAX: 916-651-2164

RE: AB 1795 (Gipson) Emergency Medical Services: community care facilities Notice of Support

Dear Assemblymember Gipson:

The Los Angeles County Division of the League of California Cities® (Division), supports your AB 1795 which would give local emergency medical services agencies the authority to create community paramedicine plans to allow well-trained paramedics to transport people to specified mental health urgent care centers or to sobering centers, if available. These alternate destination community paramedicine programs allow patients to have more direct access to appropriate care.

In 2016, emergency departments statewide received over 14.5 million visits, resulting in an increased volume of recipients that has resulted in overcrowding and high wait times. In Los Angeles County, a third of all 911 calls for medical emergencies are estimated to be non-emergent and over 30,000 of these patients could be more appropriately cared for at a mental health urgent care center or sobering center which are well-equipped to connect to patients to specialized care and supportive services.

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

For these reasons, the Los Angeles County Division supports AB 1795.

Sincerely,

Miguel Canales
President, Los Angeles County Division
League of California Cities®

cc: Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation
Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn

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