

April 9, 2018

The Honorable Jim Wood  
Chair, Assembly Committee on Health  
State Capitol, Room 6005  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1893 (Maienschein): Maternal mental health: federal funding - SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Wood:

Monterey County is pleased to support AB 1893 which would require the Department of Public Health to investigate and apply for federal funding opportunities regarding maternal mental health, and to prepare a report to the Legislature by January 1, 2020, on how the Department plans to use the federal funding it receives.

Monterey County supports requiring the Department to investigate and apply for federal funding opportunities regarding Maternal Mental Health (MMH), including funding that will become available through the Bringing Postpartum Depression Out of the Shadows Act. The Department will benefit from these funds by developing or expanding programs such as a maternal mental health public awareness campaign, or expanding home visiting programs to provide in-home counseling for women suffering from maternal mental health disorders.

Maternal Mental Health disorders form the most common complication of pregnancy impacting over 100,000 California women and families each year. Research suggests only 15% of women will receive some form of treatment. Because lack of treatment can have irreversible effects on women, infants and families, and the cost to California's society is projected at an astounding \$2.25 billion annually in lost income, productivity and negative health outcomes for children, it's critical that we take action now.

Sincerely,

Luis A. Alejo  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Brian Maienschein, California State Assembly  
Members, Assembly Committee on Health  
Lara Flynn, Principal Consultant, Assembly Committee on Health  
The Honorable Bill Monning, California State Senate  
The Honorable Anthony Cannella, California State Senate  
The Honorable Anna Caballero, California State Assembly  
The Honorable Mark Stone, California State Assembly  
California State Association of Counties