



County of Monterey

Board of Supervisors

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September 9, 2024

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
1401 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jimmy Panetta
304 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: H.R. 8575, the Michelle Alyssa Go Act – Support

Dear Congresswoman Lofgren and Congressman Panetta:

On behalf of Monterey County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express our support for the *Michelle Alyssa Go Act* (H.R. 8575). This bill would increase the number of federal Medicaid-eligible in-patient psychiatric beds for individuals who are seeking treatment for both mental health and substance use disorders.

As you know, under current federal law, Medicaid is prohibited from covering long-term stays for patients between the ages of 21 and 64 who are receiving mental health or substance abuse treatment in a facility with more than 16 beds, known as an Institution for Mental Diseases (IMD). The *Michelle Alyssa Go Act* would raise the limit for a facility to be eligible for Medicaid coverage, from 16 in-patient psychiatric beds to 36. This would more than double the beds eligible to be funded by federal Medicaid in statute. The bill also ensures these facilities meet nationally recognized, evidence-based standards of care.

H.R. 8575 seeks to ease the prohibition on Medicaid coverage, also known as the IMD exclusion that has been in effect since Medicaid was created in 1965 and has resulted in people being unable to access mental health care, as many do not have the funds to cover these services out of pocket and many institutions have downsized their capacity.

We urge you to cosponsor H.R. 8575, and on behalf of the Board of Supervisors, I thank you for your continued support of important issues facing Monterey County residents.

Sincerely,

DRAFT

Glenn Church, Chair
Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Alex Padilla, U.S. Senator for California
The Honorable Laphonza Butler, U.S. Senator for California



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