

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

Board of Supervisors Unanimously Approves Supervisor Mandelman's Resolution Championing Governor Newsom's Proposal to Reform California's Behavioral Health System

Supervisor Mandelman successfully led the passage of a resolution supporting the ballot proposal, which includes SB 326, authored by Senator Eggman, and SB 531, authored by Assemblymember Irwin.

SAN FRANCISCO — On Tuesday, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously passed Supervisor Rafael Mandelman's resolution in support of Governor Gavin Newsom's proposal to be placed on the March 2024 ballot, which would be the first major reform to California's behavioral health system since the Mental Health Services Act was passed two decades ago.

"Governor Newsom's proposal would infuse long overdue capital and operating dollars into California's inadequate continuum of behavioral healthcare," said **Supervisor Mandelman**. "Yesterday's unanimous vote shows that San Francisco is united in supporting these investments, which will begin to make good on the decades-deferred promise of community mental healthcare for our most vulnerable mentally ill residents."

Last week, Supervisor Mandelman joined Governor Newsom, Senator Susan Eggman, Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin, and a coalition of local and State leaders in Sacramento to discuss the initiative.

"We are facing a confluence of crises: mental health, opioids, housing, and homelessness – and this transformative effort will ensure California is tackling these challenges head-on in a comprehensive and inclusive way," said **Governor Newsom**. "The unanimous support from the San Francisco Board of Supervisors underscores the urgency of this reform and investment to build more beds and deliver results. Solving these crises will take all of us, and it's great to see this growing coalition of local officials step up to meet this moment."

The proposal includes SB 326, authored by Senator Eggman, which would update the Mental Health Services Act by expanding services to include treatment for substance use disorders. The bill also requires that close to \$1 billion each year be used by counties to provide housing interventions including shared housing, family housing, rental subsidies, and operating subsidies for unhoused families, children, and adults with severe mental illness or substance use disorders.

The second bill included in the Governor's proposal is AB 531, authored by Assemblymember Irwin, which would place a \$4.68 billion General Obligation Bond on the ballot next March to fund unlocked, voluntary, community-based residential care settings for people with behavioral health needs. As over 70% or more unhoused veterans suffer from substance use disorders, the bill also dedicates a portion of the bond for shelter and permanent supportive housing for veterans.

[Read more](#) about Governor Newsom's behavioral health system reform package.

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