

SB 238 will Delay Much Needed Mental Health Care for California's Youth.



California Association of
Health Plans

SB 238 is a counterproductive bill that will do the opposite of what it seeks to do by delaying care further for those seeking mental healthcare. It will also increase costs for the state's health care system and all Californians.

X SB 238 Will Delay Care and Put Patients at Risk

SB 238 Will Delay Needed Mental Health Care, Putting Patients at Risk.

- Passing SB 238 would trigger an automatic Independent Medical Review (IMR), introducing potential delays in enrollees' access to necessary care by bypassing health plans' efficient secondary review process that promptly resolves denials or modifications.
- Referring all denials/modifications to IMR regardless of merit will create bottlenecks, inefficiency, and jeopardize timely care for vulnerable mental health patients.
- The bill's complex administrative requirements will burden mental health care providers, diverting attention from patients, and prolonging the time for individuals to receive necessary care.
- SB 238's mental health care service delays may worsen conditions and increase illness severity.

WHY SHOULD LEGISLATORS REJECT SB 238?

Delays needed care further for those seeking help



Leads to bottlenecks in California's mental health care system



Burdens mental health care providers



Delays will result in worsened conditions and increased severity of illnesses



Will lead to increased costs for the state's health care system and for all Californians



Increased out-of-pocket expenses for enrollees

X SB 238 Will Increase Health Care Costs

SB 238 will raise costs for California's health care system and consumers.

- SB 238's complex administrative requirements will burden the health care system, driving up administrative costs leading to higher health care premium costs passed on to all Californians.
- The delays in accessing mental health care due to SB 238 could result in increased out-of-pocket expenses for enrollees, as they may need to seek alternative, potentially more expensive forms of care while waiting for approvals.

SB 238 cannot achieve its intended goals. Instead, it will increase health care costs and create a bottleneck effect, overwhelming already stretched resources and further delaying access to those in need of mental health care. Instead of enacting a bill that could potentially hinder mental health care access, it is crucial to engage in collaborative efforts with mental health professionals, advocacy groups, health plans, and other stakeholders. By incorporating their expertise and perspectives, we can develop comprehensive solutions that truly improve critical mental health care access for all Californians.

Vote No on SB 238