

SB 294 Will Delay Much Needed Mental Health Care for California's Youth.



California Association of
Health Plans

SB 294 is a counterproductive bill that will do the opposite of what it seeks to do by unnecessarily complicating and delaying care further for those seeking mental health care. It will also increase costs for the state's health care system and all Californians.

X SB 294 Will Delay Care and Put Patients at Risk

SB 294 Will Delay Needed Mental Health Care, Putting Patients at Risk.

- Passing SB 294 would create a new and complicated review process when health plans issue an initial denial, delay, or modification for all youth mental health services, potentially delaying a patient's access to care.
- Automatically reviewing all denials/modifications regardless of merit, and without additional physician or patient input, 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 294's mental health care service delays may worsen conditions and increase illness severity.

WHY SHOULD LEGISLATORS **REJECT SB 294**

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 294 Will Increase Health Care Costs

SB 294 will raise costs for California's health care system and consumers.

- SB 294'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 294 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 294 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 for 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 294