



CALIFORNIA HEALTH ADVOCATES
Medicare: Policy, Advocacy and Education

March 24, 2021

The Honorable Rudy Salas
State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: AB 383 (Salas)– SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Salas,

California Health Advocates (CHA) writes in support of Assembly Bill 383, which would establish an Older Adult Mental Health Services Administrator with the Dept. of Health Care Services. California Health Advocates (CHA), a non-profit organization founded in 1997, is the leading Medicare Advocacy and educational voice in California.

AB 383 would establish within the State Department of Health Care Services an Older Adult Mental Health Services Administrator to oversee mental health services for older adults. The bill would require that position to be funded with administrative funds from the Mental Health Services Fund. AB 383 would prescribe the functions of the administrator and its responsibilities, including, but not limited to, developing outcome and related indicators for older adults for the purpose of assessing the status of mental health services for older adults, monitoring the quality of programs for those adults, and guiding decision-making on how to improve those services. Finally, AB 383 would require the administrator to receive data from other state agencies and departments to implement these provisions, subject to existing state or federal confidentiality requirements.

There are over 5.6 million older adults in California over the age of 65. Many older adults have been affected by the pandemic with social isolation causing depression and anxiety. We urge the State to establish programs to serve this large and growing population.

CHA urges support of AB 383.

Sincerely,

Christina Dimas-Kahn
Board Chair