



April 25, 2017

Honorable Phil Ting
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95818

Honorable Holly Mitchell
Chair, Senate Budget Committee
State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95818

Honorable Jim Cooper
Chair, Budget Subcommittee No. 4
State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95818

Honorable Richard D. Roth
Chair, Budget Subcommittee No. 4
State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95818

Re: Physicians groups, Drug and Mental Health Treatment Professionals, and Children’s Advocacy organizations support of Governor’s Trailer Bill to Implement Proposition 64 and Medical Cannabis Safety and Regulation

Dear Senators and Assemblymembers;

The undersigned drug treatment professionals, organizations, and associations support the Governor’s trailer bill language (TBL) to implement Proposition 64 and align the regulation of Prop 64 and Medical Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MCRSA).

Most of us did not take a position in support or opposed to Proposition 64.

However, 57% of California voters enacted Proposition 64 with a clear intent to regulate, tax and control the use of marijuana, and to dedicate the majority of the tax proceeds to create California’s first real fiscal commitment to the prevention of drug use, early intervention, and treatment of youth with substance use disorders.

We believe Proposition 64 must be implemented expeditiously, in order ensure the taxes are collected and allocated to drug prevention and treatment for California youth as mandated by the Act.

Additionally, the child protection and consumer protections contained in the act are urgently needed to improve public health and public safety.



We do not have a position on the regulatory issues that differ between the Proposition and MCRSA. We understand that there may be debate over competing track and trace technologies and distribution methods.

However, we say with confidence that a significant rewrite of a voter initiative by the legislature would invite court challenge. We are concerned that legal actions including injunctions and lengthy lawsuits will temporarily or permanently prevent the collection of taxes that are intended to fund drug treatment and prevention for California youth and young adults, and will also perpetuate an unregulated and lawless underground market.

The Governor’s TBL proposal is a logical, lawful and concise blueprint for implementation and regulation of both medical and adult use marijuana.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that the Legislature work with the Governor’s office to implement the voter mandate without significant amendment.

Signed:

Pete Nielsen, CEO – California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals (CCAPP)

Paul Curtis, Executive Director and **Rusty Selix** Legislative Advocate CCCBHA

(California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies)

Al Senella, President – California Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Executives (CAADPE)

Kevin McAllister, Director – California Coalition for Youth (CCY)

Warren Daniels, MA, LAADC, CCJP – Community Recovery Resources

Steve J. Maulhardt, Executive Vice President – Aegis Medical Systems

Al Senella, CEO – Tarzana Treatment Centers

Dave Neilsen, MSW, Senior Mental Health Policy Advocate - California Alliance of Child and Family Services

Kerry Parker, Executive Director – California Society of Addiction Medicine (CSAM)

Randall Hagar, Director of Government Relations – California Psychiatric Association (CPA)