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March 20, 2018

The Honorable Joel Anderson  
California State Senator  
California State Capitol, Room 5052  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Jim Beall  
California State Senator  
California State Capitol, Room 2082  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 906 (Anderson and Beall): Medi-Cal: Peer Support Specialists Certification-SUPPORT**

Dear Senators Anderson and Beall,

Lassen County is in support of SB 906 (Anderson/Beall) that would establish a Peer, Parent, Transition Age and Family Support Specialist Certification Program to be administered by the Department of Health Care Services.

Peer providers who use their life experience with mental illness and recovery, coupled with skills learned through formal training, have proven a valuable addition to service delivery in mental health settings. Research demonstrates that use of qualified peer support specialists has measurable benefits to clients, including reduced hospitalizations, improved functioning, alleviation of depression and other symptoms, and enhanced self-advocacy. A peer support program also creates a career ladder so that consumers and family members working in mental health care have the opportunity to fully contribute, translating their experience into meaningful employment.

According to a letter of support from the California State Association of Counties, “*SB 906 would help improve and expand California’s behavioral health care workforce, provide new federal Medicaid funding, and most importantly, improve the treatment and care for people eligible for mental health and substance use disorder services*”

Sincerely,

CHRIS GALLAGHER, Chairman  
Lassen County Board of Supervisors

CC: Assemblyman Brian Dahle  
Senator Ted Gaines  
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)  
Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)