

## Press Release: Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk-Silva Announces Governor Signs Substance Use Disorder Workforce Bill

Dear Colleagues,

CBHA is proud to join Assemblymember Sharon Quirk-Silva in announcing the signing of Assembly Bill 666 by Governor Newsom!

Initially introduced by Assemblymember Chiu, **AB 666 (Quirk-Silva)** will require the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to issue a statewide substance use disorder (SUD) workforce needs assessment report that evaluates the current state of the SUD workforce, determines barriers to entry into the SUD workforce, and assesses the state's systems for regulating and supporting the SUD workforce. The bill will authorize the DHCS to implement SUD workforce development programming that includes a number of program elements, including stipends to cover costs related to testing, registration, and certification for specified individuals and tuition reimbursements for undergraduate and graduate students who complete coursework in programs related to SUDs.

CBHA would like to thank our co-sponsor, California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals (CCAPP), our legislative champions Assemblymember Quirk-Silva and Assemblymember Chiu, and Governor Newsom for their partnership and leadership in making AB 666 law.

About 2.7 million Californians had a diagnosable substance use disorder in the past year, yet only 1 in 10 of these individuals received treatment. AB 666 takes a critical step to support the behavioral health workforce and combat the growing behavioral health crisis

Please click the button below to read Assemblymember Quirk-Silva's press release.

In Service,



Le Ondra Clark Harvey, Ph.D.  
Chief Executive Officer

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Release



For Immediate Release:  
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### Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk-Silva Announces Governor Signs Substance Use Disorder Workforce Bill

SACRAMENTO, CA – Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk-Silva's (D-Fullerton) Assembly Bill (AB) 666 was signed into law, which takes the critical steps needed to address the shortage and lack of diversity within the state's behavioral health workforce that treats substance use disorders.

"The California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies (CBHA) applauds Governor Newsom for signing AB 666 championed by Assemblywoman Quirk-Silva," said Dr. Le Ondra Clark Harvey, CBHA's Chief Executive Officer. "Each year, we see more and more preventable deaths from drug overdoses because we don't have the workforce capacity to meet the increasing need for services. Assemblywoman Quirk-Silva and Assemblymember Chiu recognized the behavioral health crisis our state faces and took action to address the Substance Use Disorder (SUD) workforce shortage. CBHA is proud to have partnered with the California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals (CCAPP) to cosponsor AB 666, which will allow California to make evidence-informed decisions to support the SUDs workforce and provide behavioral health care for our most vulnerable communities."

"California has faced crippling substance use disorder workforce shortages that have limited the state's ability to expand services. Signing AB 666 into law demonstrates Governor Newsom's commitment to fighting the opioid crisis and creating greater access to care for people suffering from addiction," said Pete Nielsen, President and CEO, CCAPP.

Rates of substance use disorders and deaths related to drug overdoses have dramatically increased in California over the last decade, disproportionately impacting racial, ethnic, and LGBTQ communities, as well as vulnerable groups like our state's homeless population. Additionally, with the increase in new SUDs related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the SUD workforce is not robust enough to address the scale of Substance Use Disorder professionals needed in our state.

"I am proud to have worked with my colleague, and original author of AB 666, Assemblymember David Chiu on this important legislation," said Assemblywoman Quirk-Silva. "Governor Newsom's signature allows California to increase our much needed Substance Use Disorders workforce that also reflects the state's diverse cultural population."

For further information, I invite you to visit my [website](#).



Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk represents the 65th Assembly District, which includes the Orange County communities of Anaheim, Buena Park, Cypress, Fullerton, Garden Grove, La Palma, and Stanton.

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exceptional services and sponsor our advocacy efforts.



**California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies**

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