



July 1, 2011

The Honorable Loni Hancock  
Chair, Senate Public Safety Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2082  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 396 (Mitchell) – Medi-Cal: Juvenile Detention Facilities  
As amended 5/12/11 – SUPPORT  
Set for hearing July 5, 2011 – Senate Public Safety Committee**

Dear Senator Hancock:

On behalf of the California Mental Health Directors Association (CMHDA), which represents the directors of public mental health authorities in counties throughout California, I am pleased to communicate our support of Assembly Bill 396, a bill by Assembly Member Holly Mitchell to provide the opportunity for counties to receive federal funding for the inpatient medical costs of juvenile detainees.

Specifically, AB 396 would allow the state and counties to draw down federal matching funds for the inpatient medical treatment provided to minors who are outside of a juvenile detention facility for more than 24 hours. The bill specifies that participating minors must be eligible for Medi-Cal and detained in either a juvenile detention facility or probation camp, whether it is state or county-run. While the measure would require the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to develop a process to allow counties to collect federal reimbursement for outpatient medical care, the author points out that current law already authorizes DHCS to implement a similar reimbursement system for adult detainees.

AB 396 would allow the state and counties to pull down federal Medicaid matching funds for funds that we are already expending for juvenile medical care. It is for these reasons that CMHDA supports AB 396. Should you have any questions about our position, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 556-3477 ext. 112 or [kbarlow@cmhda.org](mailto:kbarlow@cmhda.org). Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Barlow  
Associate Director, Legislation and Public Policy

cc: The Honorable Holly Mitchell, Member, California State Assembly  
Members, Senate Public Safety Committee  
Alison Anderson, Consultant, Senate Public Safety Committee  
Lark Park, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor  
Joe Parra, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus