



California Association of Mental Health Peer-Run Organizations
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March 9, 2016

Honorable Jim Frazier
Assembly Transportation Committee, Chair
Legislative Office Building
1020 N Street, Room 112
Sacramento, CA 95814

Via Fax: 916-319-2193

AB 1884 (Harper) Support - An Act to Add Section 5166 to the Vehicle Code – Mental Health License Plates

The California Association of Mental Health Peer-Run Organizations (CAMHPRO) is a nonprofit statewide organization consisting of consumer-run organizations and programs. CAMHPRO's mission is to transform communities and the mental health system throughout California to empower, support, and ensure the rights of consumers, eliminate stigma, and advance self-determination for all those affected by mental health issues by championing the work of consumer-run organizations.

Assembly Bill 1884 would establish the Mental Health Awareness Fund for mental health awareness and education. The fund would be generated by the sale of license plates with a mental health awareness message.

This is in direct correlation with CAMHPRO's purpose as stated in our By Laws, to seek the "Elimination of stigma and discrimination related to mental health, and promotion of social inclusion." CAMHPRO is deeply concerned about eliminating stigma and transforming communities to be inclusive and respectful of people with mental health challenges. Education and awareness of mental health are essential fundamental variables to negate the deeply ingrained stereotypes of mental health and resultant discrimination. Stigma and discrimination threaten the civil rights of individuals with mental health challenges and undermines their seeking and receiving services and supports. People with mental health challenges face discrimination in housing and employment because of stigma and discrimination, as well as inappropriate mental health treatment and criminalization.

Please support AB 1884 to allocate funding to bring awareness, education, and help end stigmatization of people with mental health challenges. The bill proposes a perfect solution, using a mental health awareness message on license plates to raise funds to support mental health



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awareness and education, raising funds for mental health awareness by raising mental health awareness.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 415-341-9460, or Heidi Strunk, CAMHPRO Advocacy Coordinator, at 916-212-3685.

Sincerely,

Sally Zinman

Executive Director, California Association of Mental health Peer Run Organizations
(CAMHPRO)

cc: Honorable Members, Transportation Committee
Honorable Member Matthew Harper