

## **SUMMARY**

---

This bill would authorize and train emergency physicians (EP) to place an individual whom they determine to be a danger to themselves or others or is gravely disabled, on a 5150 hold.

## **BACKGROUND**

---

In 1967, the Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Act was enacted to create a right to prompt psychiatric evaluation and treatment at a designated facility. In addition, this act established due process protections to safeguard patients' rights, and authorized designated individuals to detain patients experiencing a behavioral health crisis.

Section 5150(a) of the LPS Act allows certain individuals to detain a person against their will if they believe a person presents a danger to themselves or others, or is "gravely disabled," meaning they cannot meet their basic personal needs. Specified individuals that are given this authority have a wide variety of training and education in behavioral health – ranging from law enforcement officers and registered nurses to social workers and psychiatrists. The purpose of this Act is to provide a mechanism for these patients to receive an assessment, evaluation, crisis intervention, placement, and treatment for their mental health condition in a county designated facility.

However, many people in behavioral health crises visit local emergency departments (ED), but there are not individuals authorized to place a 5150 hold on site 24/7. In the case of a behavioral health crisis, an emergency physician has to call the county to request a designated individual come and place the patient on a 5150 hold. This process and wait time varies by county, sometimes taking up to five days for a designated individual to arrive.

An individual experiencing a mental health crisis should necessitate an urgent response. Emergency physicians are best situated to make this call, they simply need the training and authority to do so.

## **SOLUTION**

---

AB 416 grants emergency physicians with the authority to place an individual experiencing a behavioral health crisis on a 5150 hold. Additionally, this bill will ensure EPs are trained on the process of placing a 5150 in the county in which they practice.

## **SUPPORT**

---

California Chapter of the American College of  
Emergency Physicians (California ACEP) (**Sponsor**)  
Psychiatric Physicians Alliance of California (PPAC)  
(**Co-sponsor**)

Adventist Health

Alliance of Catholic Health Care, INC.

California Emergency Nurses Association

California Hospital Association

California Medical Association (CMA)

California Police Chiefs Association

California Professional Firefighters

California State Sheriffs' Association

Loma Linda University Adventist Health Sciences  
Center and its Affiliated Entities

Sacramento County Probation Association

Saint Agnes Medical Center

Steinberg Institute

Sutter Health

## **STAFF CONTACT**

---

Alex Niles

Office of Assemblywoman Maggy Krell

[Alex.niles@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Alex.niles@asm.ca.gov)

(916) 319-2006