



**C.A.S.A**

CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE FOR STATE ADVOCACY

April 17, 2023

Honorable Jasmeet Bains  
Member of the Assembly  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0035

**RE: Support for AB 1055 – Alcohol drug counselors.**

Dear Assemblymember Bains:

On behalf of the California Alliance for State Advocacy, I would like to convey our support of **Assembly Bill 1055** to require the state to establish the Allied Behavioral Health Board to regulate, standardize, and license the alcohol or drug (AOD) profession. California is one of the few states in our nation that lacks licensure for alcohol drug professionals.

The California Alliance for State Advocacy seeks to promote the advancement of addiction focused professionals by uniting alcoholism and addiction counselors, prevention specialists, and others who have a direct interest in the field of recovery throughout the State of California. This is done through legislative advocacy, professional growth opportunities, academic growth opportunities, business growth opportunities, peer assistance, and ethical standards.

As an organization that has been adversely impacted by increased demand for behavioral health professionals, I strongly support the establishment of licensure for AOD counselors. **AB 1055** will establish the Allied Behavioral Health Board at the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) to house the new AOD counselor license. This license will protect consumers and establish counselor competency for the private practice sector by providing much-needed title protection to AOD counselors. Licensure will also create a clear career pathway for AOD professionals so they may specialize in this area and will not feel they must leave the profession to advance their careers (become a marriage and family therapist or social worker). My agency supports the workforce, and we believe this bill will not only draw new professionals to this specialty but will also retain experienced workers who are passionate about treating substance use disorder.

With the record highs in overdose deaths and an increasing expansion of the behavioral health profession, it is urgent that we establish licensure for this profession. Patchwork remedies like ethics committees and credentialing entity enforcement are limited to services provided in licensed and certified programs. We need to regulate and standardize the AOD profession for the private practice sector so that the vulnerable clients we serve may have the consumer protections they deserve.

Thank you for your leadership in supporting this important measure.

Sincerely,

*Brooke Cianciotta, B.S.*

Brooke Cianciotta, B.S./President

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