



February 10, 2023

Chief Justice Patricia Guerrero and Associate Justices
California Supreme Court
350 McAllister St.
San Francisco, CA 94102-4797

Re: Disability Rights California v. Gavin Newsom, No: S278330

Dear Chief Justice Guerrero and Associate Justices:

We at the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA) California write to encourage you to hear case No. S278330. If implemented CARE Court will cause further emotional trauma and serious damage to the lives of members of our community who live with serious mental illness.

For far too long now the state of California has continued to push aside and ignore us, waiting until we become severely ill before taking any action. Now it wants to force us to go to court to receive services that should be voluntarily and readily accessible but are not. The state refuses to educate the public on serious mental illness or widely offer mental health first aid, so that our loved ones and we know how to respond if we become sick. The state offers no emergency first response options where we can voluntarily go to access care should a crisis arise. The voluntary services that are offered are underfunded and severely lacking in accessibility. Further, this plan will have a disproportionate impact on our BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ communities who are further underserved. Our peers and we are not born into a psychotic state, there are many opportunities along the way for education, prevention, and early intervention but the state ignores them all in favor of courts and forced treatment as though we are the problem.

Despite our repeated efforts, those of us who will be impacted by this plan were not consulted during its development and creation. There is not a single peer led organization in the state that supports the plan. No civil and effective solution to any problem throughout history has ever been truly realized without consulting and including those whose lives the problem touches the most.

We applaud and support Disability Rights California in their efforts to put a stop to this wasteful and damaging plan and implore you to please hear case No. S278330.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul Simmons" with a small upward-pointing arrow above the final "s".

Paul Simmons
Executive Director
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance of California