

OPPOSE SB 43!

Community Education Talking Points

There is a bill called Senate Bill (SB) 43 that is moving through the Legislature right now that will make it easier for the government to lock people up when they have a mental health crisis or for other behavioral health reasons. We want to stop this bill from becoming law! There is a coalition of people who care about disability and civil rights and don't want people with mental health disability to be locked up against their will when they can get services that they need in the community.

SB 43 is bad and here are some of the reasons the coalition is against it:

SB 43 makes it easier to lock people up.

- Many people who have mental health disabilities and have been locked up in a psychiatric facility have shared that it was scary and traumatic for them.
 - o That's because people who are locked in these facilities can be held down, tied down, and can be injected with medication by force and against their will.
 - o These locked facilities are often loud, dirty, and overcrowded and stressful.

- If you get locked up in a facility, you can lose your job, or get evicted, or lose custody of your children.

- You can be moved to a facility that is far away, making it hard for you to keep in touch with your family and friends and for them to visit and keep in touch with you.

- If you don't have health insurance or your health insurance is not very good, you can be stuck with a big medical bill.

SB 43 takes taxpayer money and spends it on for-profit facilities instead of community services and housing.

- Many locked psychiatric facilities are for-profit corporations that are driven by how much money they can make.
- For-Profit locked facilities make money when patients are locked there. This can cause people to be locked up longer than they should be.

- Money ends up going to for-profit locked facilities instead of services and housing in the community.

SB 43 will cause more harm to people of color

- SB 43 is going to be used against people who don't have housing or shelter. Many people who have lost housing or shelter are people of color. We don't want SB 43 to become law because Black and Brown and Native American people are more likely to be impacted by SB 43.
- Right now, Black and Latinx people are more than 50% likely to be placed on a 5150 hold. That is a hold lets them lock you up against your will for 72 hours.
- SB 43 will make it easier for businesses to call the police on unhoused people. Police interaction can be dangerous and can cause harm and maybe death for people.

SB 43 is dangerous because it can be used to lock people up if they used drugs or are using drugs.

- SB 43 will allow people who used drug or have used drugs to be locked up!
- People who are forced into drug treatment against their will are more likely to relapse and die from overdose than those who are not treated by force.

SB 43 will make it harder for you to fight being conserved (where another person gets to make decisions for you)

- SB 43 will not require the doctor that treated you to come to the hearing to say why they gave you the diagnosis, even if you think the diagnosis is wrong. SB 43 will let the court use just medical records to put you into a conservatorship.

For all those reasons, we Oppose SB 43. If you would like to get involved or join the coalition, please email

mentalhealthcivilrightscoalition@disabilityrightsca.org.

Thank you! In Solidarity!