



March 15, 2019
Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel
California State Capitol P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94293

Re: Assembly Bill 166 (Gabriel) - Support

Dear Assemblymember Gabriel,

The National Network of Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Programs (NNHVIP) is proud to support Assembly Bill 166 (Gabriel) to provide Medi-Cal coverage for violence prevention services for gunshot and violent incident victims.

While modern medicine has saved countless lives from violent injuries, most healthcare systems routinely fail to address violently injured patients' risk of re-injury after these patients exit the hospital. This creates a revolving door of violent injury and trauma centers too often see the same victims repeatedly.

Hospital-based Violence Intervention Programs (HVIPs) use innovative and effective patient-focused strategies to break that cycle and reduce rates for violent injury recidivism. Founded in 2009, the NNHVIP represents over 35 hospital-based violence intervention programs across the United States. Our members provide services to violently injured individuals beginning in hospital settings and extend care beyond hospitalization and into the community. Evaluations have repeatedly demonstrated that integrating HVIP services into hospital trauma centers corresponds with reductions in rates of injury recidivism and long-term increases in patients' wellbeing.

Unfortunately, funding for HVIPs has not always kept up with the need. In California, while there has been modest funding to support HVIPs in the past, this funding was limited in scope; HVIPs in California now require a more sustainable source of funding to continue to save lives.

Providing Medi-Cal coverage for violence prevention services for gunshot victims will help expand utilization of Hospital-based Violence Intervention Programs in California and would likely even result in cost savings to the state Medicaid program and to our justice system. With AB 166, HVIPs can continue their preventative work and harness state and federal funding to reduce the cycle of violence that plagues many of our cities and destroys many of our communities.

For these reasons, NNHVIP enthusiastically supports AB 166.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fatimah Loren Muhammad', written in a cursive style.

Fatimah Loren Muhammad

Executive Director, NNHVIP