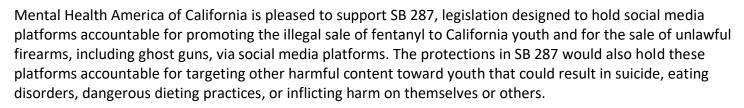
March 28, 2023

The Honorable Nancy Skinner California State Senate 1021 O St., Suite Sacramento CA 95814

Re: Support for Senate Bill 287

Dear Senator Skinner:



Mental Health America of California (MHAC) is a peer-run organization that has been leading the state in behavioral health public policy and advocacy since 1957. The mission of MHAC is to ensure that people of all ages, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, language, race, ethnicity, national origin, immigration status, spirituality, religion, age or socioeconomic status who require mental health services and supports are able to live full and productive lives, receive the mental health services and other services that they need, and are not denied any other benefits, services, rights, or opportunities based on their need for mental health services.

We oppose the dangerous algorithms of social media platforms that direct users, including children and youth, to harmful and dangerous content. Unregulated social media platforms have increased youth access to weapons, substances, and harmful content which has been life threatening for our youth. Senate Bill 287 takes a bold step to hold social media platforms accountable for their part in intermediating illegal activity and lifethreatening youth trends.

For these reasons, we support Senate Bill 287. If you or your staff have any questions, or if Mental Health America of California can be of any assistance on this or any other behavioral health bill, please do not hesitate to contact me at hstrunk@mhac.org, or our Interim Director of Public Policy, Karen Vicari at kvicari@mhacofca.org.

In Community,

Heidi Strunk

President & CEO

Mental Health America of California

Mental Health A

