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Assembly California Legislature

REGINALD BYRON JONES-SAWYER, SR.
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FIFTY-NINTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
CHAIR: PUBLIC SAFETY
AGRICULTURE
BUDGET
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
SUBCOMMITTEE
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 5 ON
PUBLIC SAFETY

June 8, 2021

The Honorable Anthony Rendon
Speaker of the Assembly
State Capitol, Room 219
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Phil Ting
Chair, Assembly Committee on Budget
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Renovation and Campus Redevelopment of Kedren Acute Psychiatric Hospital and
Community Mental Health Center

Dear Speaker Rendon and Assemblymember Ting,

I respectfully request \$30 million in one-time funding to support the renovation of Kedren Acute Psychiatric Hospital and Community Mental Health Center located in South Los Angeles. This allocation will ensure that underserved individuals and families can better access vital, quality integrated health and behavioral health services.

Kedren Community Health Center was founded on October 22, 1965, by the late child psychiatrist Dr. James L. Jones, following the Los Angeles Watts uprising. In the wake of this event, a group of 22 black male psychiatrists came together and determined that to understand the underlying issues that led to the uprising, they must reach out to the community. Residents cited issues ranging from police brutality to inadequate schools, gang violence, and absentee landlords. Out of these discussions, the Kedren Community Health Center was begun, laying the groundwork for the Head Start Program to be implemented in Los Angeles and opening its first outpatient clinic in February 1966.

In the late 80s and 90s, Kedren was able to increase inpatient funding and began shifting its focus to community-based treatment, as well as collaborating with community partnerships to provide housing and employment opportunities. Since then, Kedren has almost doubled the number of inpatient beds for adults, increased its budget for Mental Health and Head Start, and created partnerships for housing clients as part of its community reintegration program.

Kedren has been instrumental in delivering a comprehensive array of health services that integrate primary care with behavioral care through their expansive network of physicians, mental health specialists, and social workers. Their programs address not only the physical needs of patients but other health concerns including diabetes and substance use. All of which is provided irrespective of an individual's or family's ability to pay.

The campus redevelopment of Kedren Psychiatric Hospital seeks to renovate multiple structures on its property to allow for increased clinic space, additional inpatient beds, and more available parking.

Specifically, Kedren seeks to renovate its existing inpatient building so that additional beds can be added. The redevelopment also includes replacing the existing, single-story behavioral health facility with a larger building that will allow urgent care facilities to occupy the ground floor and three additional floors devoted to new inpatient beds. Lastly, redevelopment plans include the construction of a new community clinic which will be key to further expansion of health care services to the immediate community.

I respectfully request your leadership in securing \$30 million in one-time funding from the State of California for the Kedren Community Health Center. This allocation will allow Kedren to further improve and expand the crucial health and behavioral health services they provide to the greater South Los Angeles community. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact my office at (916) 319-2059.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Sr." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R' and 'B'.

Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Sr.
Assemblymember
59th Assembly District