



Office of the San Diego City Attorney

Mara W. Elliott
City Attorney

March 13, 2023

Senator Susan Talamantes Eggman
Chair, California State Senate Health Committee
1021 O Street, Room 3310
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support – SB 43 (Eggman): Conservatorship Reform

Dear Senator Eggman:

The San Diego City Attorney's Office urges the members of the Senate Health Committee to support Senate Bill (SB) 43.

SB 43 would reform the conservatorship process for those in dire need of assistance with their daily activities, thereby contributing to the safety and welfare of all Californians.

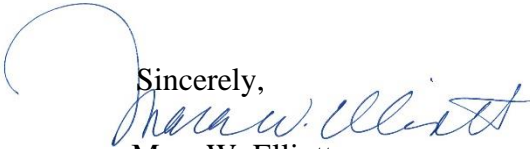
As San Diego City Attorney, I have made it a priority to look out for the most vulnerable in our communities, including those who are unable to take care of themselves due to mental health challenges, chronic substance abuse, or both. The evidence that our society has failed to properly care for those most in need is plain to see on the streets of San Diego and other cities in California, where thousands of people are literally left to fend for themselves without adequate food, shelter, or medical care.

The current state law regarding conservatorship is outdated and sorely in need of updates that will allow more people without the ability to care for themselves to be cared for under court-ordered conservatorships. Those who are left on the streets to struggle often end up in jail, in a needlessly endless cycle in and out of the justice system, wasting precious resources, without ever having the underlying cause of their problems adequately addressed.

It is neither compassionate nor progressive to withhold treatment from those who need it most, due to the current requirements for conservatorships. SB 43 would remove some of those stumbling blocks by broadening the medical information that can be considered by the court, and revising the definition of “gravely disabled” so that more people can obtain the help they need.

For these reasons, my Office strongly supports SB 43 and respectfully requests the approval of the Senate Health Committee.

Sincerely,



Mara W. Elliott
San Diego City Attorney