Honorable Chris Holden, Chair

Assembly Appropriations Committee

1021 O St., #5650

Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assemblyman Holden:

**RE:  AB 1339** (Haney) Discrimination: disability: medication assisted treatment – **SUPPORT**

The ORGANIZATION/ NAME is pleased to support AB 1339 (Haney), a bill that outlaws housing discrimination on the basis of a person receiving medications for addiction treatment (MAT). The bill revises the definition of disability to include a person receiving MAT, or taking authorized medications as part of a narcotic treatment program, and applies that definition to provisions prohibiting housing discrimination. AB 1339 prohibits housing providers who accept state funding from discriminating against individuals on MAT.

CAADPE is a professional association of community-based substance use disorder (SUD) treatment agency executives advocating for quality patient care. CAADPE’s members provide SUD services at over 300 sites throughout the state and constitute the infrastructure of the state’s publicly-funded substance use disorder treatment network.

MAT is the use of FDA-approved medications to assist in treating opioid addiction. MAT medications are most successful when combined with other treatments and supports. As of February 2023, CDCR had over 15,500 individuals on MAT treatment.  Those individuals, upon release, will move into the community, with many of them needing reentry and recovery housing assistance. As of June, 2022, approximately 41% of individuals released in the prior year from State Prison were identified as having moderate to high residential reentry instability. Federal civil rights laws protect qualified “individuals with disabilities” from discrimination. But even with these federal protections, individuals on MAT are often discriminated against by being denied housing that would support them in their recovery.

The Federal Fair Housing Act applies to recovery residences because they fall under the definition of “dwelling.” Individuals with disabilities are protected under this Act, and are further protected under the Federal ADA and the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 if housing providers receive Federal Financial Assistance. California Law also prohibits housing discrimination by providers who receive state funding, but it is not currently clear that MAT treatment falls under these federal definitions.  AB 1339 would clarify that the definition of disability with regard to provisions prohibiting housing discrimination would apply to individuals receiving MAT.

For these reasons CAADPE respectfully requests your support of AB 1339 when it is heard in your committee.

Respectfully,

Cc         Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee

              Hon. Matt Haney, AD 17