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Assembly California Legislature



DAN LOGUE
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COMMITTEES
VICE CHAIR: ELECTIONS AND
REDISTRICTING
VICE CHAIR: HEALTH
BUDGET
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #4
ON STATE ADMINISTRATION
TRANSPORTATION

August 8, 2012

Assemblyman Ricardo Lara
Chair, Joint Legislative Audit Committee
1020 N Street, Room 107
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Request for Audit of Proposition 63 Funding

Chairman Lara,

This letter is to respectfully request that the Joint Legislative Audit Committee formally direct the State Auditor to perform an audit of Proposition 63 funding.

It has been brought to our attention that some county mental health departments have been spending Proposition 63 revenue to fund programs that in many cases are not clearly connected to the voters' intent in passing the 2004 initiative. For example, some general wellness programs appear to provide mental health-related services to people who have neither had a mental illness nor are at any particular risk to develop mental illness.

Since its passage, Proposition 63 has brought more than seven billion dollars into public mental health programs. Despite having an oversight commission, however, we lack a clear understanding of how that money has been spent and whether it has been used properly. As the people's elected representatives, we the members of the State Legislature ought to exert our proper role of oversight and look into this issue.

We recommend that the State Auditor work in coordination with staff at the Department of Health Care Services to identify any aggregate data maintained by the former Department of Mental Health. Using this data, it would be prudent to choose a sample of county mental health departments and investigate those programs have been criticized for their use of Proposition 63 funding. Attention should be given to both mental health care and early intervention programs, as both have been identified by mental health experts as having examples of misuse of funds.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Dan Logue in black ink.

Dan Logue
Assemblyman
3rd District

Handwritten signature of Brian Nestande in blue ink.

Brian Nestande
Assemblyman
64th District

Representing Butte, Lassen, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sierra and Yuba Counties

cc:

Senator Bob Dutton
Vice Chair, Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Senator Darrell Steinberg
President Pro Tempore of the Senate

Assemblyman John Perez
Speaker of the Assembly