

**Resolution of the County of Alameda Board of Supervisors in Support of
Full Parity for Mental Health Patients and Clinicians at Kaiser Permanente**

WHEREAS, mental illness is among the most common health problems faced by Californians, with nearly 1 in 6 California adults experiencing a mental illness of some kind, 1 in 24 adults having a serious mental illness that makes it difficult to carry out major life activities, and 1 in 13 children having an emotional disturbance that limits their participation in daily activities; and

WHEREAS, more than half of Californians believe that most people suffering with mental health conditions do not get the help they need, and believe that their communities do not have enough mental health providers, with Black, Latino, and low-income residents most likely to say so; and

WHEREAS, the Kennedy Forum, a leading mental health watchdog, has given California's mental health parity statutes an "F" grade, and Milliman, a leading actuarial firm, has found that California patients seeking mental health and addiction services are more than seven times as likely to get treatment out-of-network than patients seeking medical or surgical care; and

WHEREAS, according to a recent California Health Care Foundation / Kaiser Family Foundation Poll, Californians' top health policy priority is to make sure people with mental health problems can get treatment, with 88 percent of respondents saying it is extremely or very important; and

WHEREAS, Kaiser Permanente (Kaiser) is California's largest health insurer and provider of health care services, with more than 8.8 million covered lives statewide, and plays a leading role in driving standards of health care for California patients and caregivers; and

WHEREAS, Kaiser is currently under a state-ordered outside monitoring program of its mental health services until 2020; and

WHEREAS, Kaiser has barely increased its ratio of 1 full-time mental health clinician to every 3,000 plan members, and understaffing remains so severe that more than 60,000 California Kaiser patients annually are being referred to outside therapists who often cannot adequately coordinate their care with other Kaiser health professionals, thereby denying patients the integration of health care services that Kaiser promises;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the County of Alameda Board of Supervisors strongly supports the establishment of full parity for mental health patients and clinicians at Kaiser Permanente; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of Alameda Board of Supervisors stands in solidarity with the mental health clinicians at Kaiser represented by the National Union of Healthcare Workers in their fight to settle a fair contract.