



Board of Supervisors
Steven J. Ding, *Fourth District*
Nicole Goehring, *Chief of Staff*
Gavin Cline, *Board Aide*

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Contact: Katie Albertson, Public Information Officer
kalbertson@sigov.org / 209-696-1853

Ding Pushes for Mental Health Reform at National Conference

STOCKTON, CA – This week, Supervisor Steve Ding and Health Care Services Director Genevieve Valentine will represent San Joaquin County at the National Association of Counties' (NACo) 90th Annual Conference in Philadelphia, where Supervisor Ding is the sponsor of a policy resolution to expand access to mental health care.

The resolution proposes raising the federal limit on inpatient mental health beds from 16 to a least 36.¹ Supervisor Ding has already been successful in shaping national county policy with his earlier efforts to clarify regulations for multiple facilities located on the same campus. These changes are essential for the County's upcoming Be Well Campus, a major investment in behavioral health infrastructure set to break ground in September 2025.

"For too long, outdated federal rules have limited our ability to meet growing mental health needs," commented Supervisor Steve Ding. "This resolution pushes for common-sense reform, doubling treatment capacity and unlocking federal funding that counties can use to care for people closer to home. It's not just policy; it's about building a better system for the people we serve."

The reforms would also generate more Medi-Cal funding for local services.

"Increasing the bed limit from 16 to at least 36¹ could generate millions in additional Medi-Cal funding," added Director Valentine. "This additional funding would directly support prevention, treatment, and recovery. These changes will improve access, reduce out-of-county placements, and lead to better long-term health outcomes."

If adopted, the resolution will shape NACo's national advocacy and influence future federal policy.

Policy resolutions adopted at the NACo conference will help shape national advocacy efforts and inform legislative priorities on Capitol Hill. Adopted policies will become part of the [American County Platform](#) and drive NACo's advocacy efforts for the 2025–2026 term.

- [View the Proposed Resolutions Packet](#)

¹ This release has been corrected to reflect the language of the resolution. It previously listed the proposed limit as 32.

- [View Supervisor Ding's Proposed Resolution Here](#)

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