

Assembly approves bills to widen health coverage for mental illness, addiction, and autism disorders

SACRAMENTO - Two therapy and treatment bills introduced by Assembly member Jim Beall for mental illness, substance abuse, addiction, and developmental disorders will be able to get autism, and developmental

THE 2013 LEGISLATURE
QUE PASA...

LATINO BOARD LEADERSHIP ACADEMY
 ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS BY HISPANIC FOUNDATION OF SILICON VALLEY - WWW.HFSY.ORG

SAN JOSE VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION - VALENTINES FUNDRAISER DANCE, FEBRUARY 18, 6PM, I.E.S. H. WWW.SJWARMEMORIAL.COM

CORAZON DEL BARRIO, MISSION CULTURAL CENTER OPEN HOUSE - FEBRUARY 11, SAN FRANCISCO WWW.MISSIONCULTURALCENTER.ORG

"SOLITUDE" BY EVELINA AT TEATRO VISION, SAN JOSE FEBRUARY 1-12, WWW.TEATROVISION.ORG

Courtesy of Comunidad del Valle
 www.nbc11.com/comunidaddelvalle

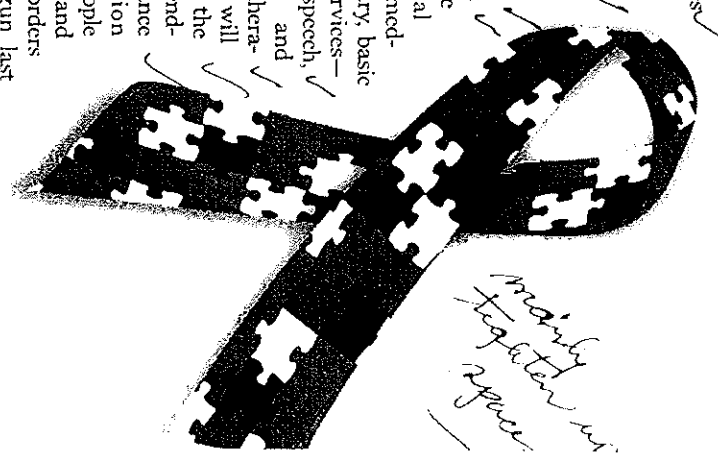
NBC11 BAY AREA NBC11 3:30 P.M.
 Contin Truffile

*EO addition
 2-3-12
 page 8*

disorders were approved today by the Assembly. "AB 154 and AB 171 are the fiscally and morally responsible things to do," Beall said. "Severe mental conditions should be treated the same as a physical illness or injury. "Both bills can end private insurers' discriminatory practice of routinely denying coverage for mental illness, addictions, and autism disorders. And both bills will stop private insurers from shifting their responsibilities and costs for treatment onto the taxpayer and our prisons, our court system, our schools, and regional centers. "About one-fourth of California's prison and jail inmates have been diagnosed with mental illness. If they could have gotten affordable treatment, I believe many of them would not be behind bars with taxpayers

footing the bills for their incarceration and their treatment." Assembly Bill 154, the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Parity Act, requires private health insurers and health plans to cover the diagnosis and medically necessary treatment of substance abuse disorders and mental illnesses of a person of any age, with specified exceptions. The bill would increase premium for an enrollee by six to 6cents per month. California passed a groundbreaking mental health parity law in 1999. In 2010, the federal mental health parity law went into effect after being approved by Congress and signed by the President in 2008. Assembly Bill 154 updates California's statute to bring it in compliance with the federal government and fills the gaps in service not addressed in the federal law. Assembly Bill

171 clarifies that insurers and health plans may not deny coverage to children and adults with autism or pervasive developmental disorders for medically necessary, basic healthcare services—including speech, occupational, and physical therapy. AB 171 will complete the process of ending insurance discrimination against people with autism and related disorders that was begun last year under SB 946, legislation that addressed behavioral health treatments for these individuals.



EO
 EL-OBSERVADOR.COM

Monica Amador
 Chief Operations Officer
 Marketing & Advertising Director

Phone: 408.938.1700 x 102 Direct: 408.457.1035
 email: monica@el-observador.com
 www.el-observador.com