



June 19, 2025

The Honorable Ash Kalra  
Chairman, Assembly Committee on Judiciary  
1020 N Street, Room 104  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 27 (Umberg) Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court Program – SUPPORT**

Dear Chairman Kalra,

As a business association leader in California, we write in strong support of Senate Bill 27 (Umberg), which strengthens the CARE Court Program. Homelessness is a crisis that affects all of us, and CARE Court offers a compassionate, innovative approach to addressing this issue, one that resonates with the values and concerns of the majority of Californians. It has become an all-too-common feature of our communities, impacting public safety, public health, and the overall well-being of our neighborhoods. SB 27 is a valuable step toward ensuring the CARE Act can operate efficiently and effectively in reversing the tide of homelessness in our state.

We especially appreciate that CARE Court provides an alternative to more restrictive interventions such as forced institutionalization or conservatorship, while still requiring accountability from both participants and service providers. The program treats individuals with dignity, offering each person a court-ordered CARE plan managed by a community-based care team. These plans include access to behavioral health services, medication, and housing support, delivered in a way that empowers individuals to make self-directed decisions with the guidance of medical, legal, and community professionals. This holistic, person-centered approach benefits not only those directly served, but all Californians who share the hope of a healthier, more compassionate future.

SB 27 builds on the foundation laid by SB 1338 by streamlining court procedures and allowing initial hearings to be conducted more efficiently. These improvements will help ensure that individuals with serious mental health needs can access care more quickly, reducing delays and improving outcomes. Importantly, SB 27 enhances the CARE Court system without adding significant new costs or administrative burdens.

Sincerely,

Jacob Brint  
Policy Advocate  
California Retailers Association

CC: The Honorable Assembly Member Diane Dixon, Vice Chair  
The Honorable Senator Tom Umberg, Author  
Members of the Assembly Committee on Judiciary  
Staff of the Assembly Committee on Judiciary