

## Swearingen, Moshe@MHSOAC

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**From:** Shannon McCleerey <tonytobe@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 4:33 PM  
**To:** MHSOAC  
**Subject:** SB614 Peer Certification

Attention: Toby Ewing and MHSOAC

I am writing to ask the Commissioners to please submit a letter of support for Senator Mark Leno's Peer Certification Bill 614.

I am a certified Peer Support Specialist through Recovery Innovations of Arizona and currently working full time for a county agency in a leadership role.

I came to Peer Support after working as a public school teacher and a patient advocate for my brother. I am a person with consumer lived experience for mental health challenges and a survivor of domestic violence. Peer Support and Recovery Model Practices have been a real game changer in my personal recovery and I have watched it change our system of service delivery in our county. It's extraordinary how much better people get when Peer Support is added to their treatment plans.

I am considering moving to another county in California and I would love it if I could take my 8 years of experience working with individuals and families in my current county to my new place of residence. Peer Certification, Statewide, would give me better opportunities working in a profession I love, no matter where I live in this state. And if, for some reason, I need to get services again, it would guarantee that I could get Peer Support, at the professional level I am used to in my current county, anywhere in California. Currently, there many versions of Peer Support that are not Peer Support at all; just behavioral health workers that carry the title, so MHSA funds can be used to pay for those positions.

A standardized test, a unified message and an expectation of a standard of care are so needed in this field.

Please ask DHCS and the Governor to pass SB614. Peer Support IS a profession that really works, it needs to be validated as a profession and has the potential to bring increased revenue to the system by helping people improve their lives and decreasing hospital stays.

I appreciate your support. Thank you.

Best Regards,

Shannon McCleerey-Hooper  
Consumer, Advocate, Peer Support Specialist