



Mayor

Will O'Neill

Mayor Pro Tem

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Brad Avery

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Robyn Grant

Lauren Kleiman

Erik Kenneth Weigand

April 19, 2024

The Honorable Thomas Umberg
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 6530
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 913 (Umberg): Substance Use Disorder Treatment:
Facilities - City of Newport Beach – Notice of Support**

Dear Senator Umberg,

On behalf of the City of Newport Beach, I write to express support for SB 913, which allows local agencies to pursue enforcement of sober living homes that are out of compliance with state code, including allowing city officials, with approval from the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), to investigate sober living homes through unannounced site visits, if there is a reasonable belief that the home is noncompliant.

Communities have raised concerns about sober living homes' quality of care and oversight. These facilities often operate in a gray area, lacking evidence-based care and appropriate licensing, which can lead to potential conflicts of interest and substandard care. SB 913 responds to these issues by reinforcing existing regulations and introducing local enforcement mechanisms to safeguard the well-being of California's most vulnerable populations.

SB 913 requires DHCS to adopt a process that allows local agencies to request approval to conduct site visits of unlicensed sober living homes, based on their reasonable belief that the home is providing one or more nonmedical services requiring licensing.

Cities are positioned to respond promptly to emerging issues or changes in their communities. Allowing them to partner with the State to conduct site inspections and enforce licensing laws enables swift action to address violations, ensure compliance, and protect public health and safety. SB 913 would help ensure treatment facilities meet standards for patient care, which is central to effective treatment outcomes and community well-being.

For these reasons, the City of Newport Beach supports SB 913.

Sincerely,



Will O'Neill
Mayor
City of Newport Beach

Cc: Senator Janet Nguyen
Assemblymember Diane Dixon
Newport Beach City Council