



March 10, 2025

**Mayor**

Joe Stapleton

**Mayor Pro Tem**

Lauren Kleiman

**Council Members**

Michelle Barto

Noah Blom

Robyn Grant

Sara J. Weber

Erik Kenneth Weigand

The Honorable Catherine Blakespear  
California State Senate  
1021 O Street, Room 7720  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 329 (Blakespear) Alcohol and Drug Recovery or  
Treatment Facilities: Investigations City of Newport Beach  
– Notice of Support**

Dear Senator Blakespear,

On behalf of the City of Newport Beach, I write to express our support for SB 329 (Blakespear), which requires the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to complete timely investigations into complaints about alcohol or drug treatment facilities.

While existing law requires DHCS to investigate complaints against licensed alcohol and drug treatment facilities, it does not establish timelines for completing those investigations. SB 329 sets clear, reasonable deadlines—aligned with existing DHCS policy—to enhance public transparency and ensure providers are held accountable for delivering high-quality treatment and care.


A recent state audit on drug and alcohol treatment facilities in California confirmed what cities across California have been saying for years: DHCS does not always promptly or thoroughly investigate complaints. By enforcing prompt investigations into complaints against alcohol and drug treatment facilities, SB 329 will help protect residents of these facilities and promotes regional coordination to address homelessness, ensuring cities work together rather than in isolation. Additionally, SB 329 allows cities to expend resources on other housing goals and efforts by reducing the strain on emergency services and law enforcement, by providing timely investigations.

Residential recovery housing provides a wide range of benefits to some of California's most vulnerable residents, and it is critical that their needs are prioritized over profits. Compliance with state licensing laws administered through the DHCS is essential to safeguarding residents' well-being and maintaining quality care.

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For these reasons, the City of Newport Beach is pleased to support  
SB 329 (Blakespear).

Sincerely,



Joe Stapleton  
Mayor  
City of Newport Beach

cc: Assembly Member Diane Dixon  
Senator Tony Strickland  
Newport Beach City Council