



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 Laurie Davies
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Room 4720
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 424 (Davies) Alcohol and Other Drug Programs:
Complaints City of Newport Beach — Notice of Support**

Dear Assembly Member Davies,

I write on behalf of the City of Newport Beach to express our support of AB 424 (Davies), which provides enhanced transparency into how the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) processes complaints against licensed alcohol and drug treatment facilities.

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 DHCS is essential to safeguarding residents' well-being and maintaining quality care. AB 424 promotes better monitoring and regulation of alcohol and drug recovery facilities within Newport Beach, ensuring they adhere to state standards and provide safe environments for clients.

AB 424 requires DHCS to notify individuals at three key points: when their complaint is received, when the investigation concludes, and the outcome of the investigation. Currently, DHCS does not automatically provide this information. Instead, complainants must file a Public Records Act (PRA) request, which can take months—sometimes over a year—to receive a response.

Lack of timely communication creates frustration for both residents and local governments. Cities report that constituents and staff frequently contact DHCS for updates, diverting staff time away from critical investigations. This process fails to instill public confidence in the complaint process, which is leaving communities in the dark about issues that directly impact them. By improving communication, AB 424

RE: AB 424 (Davies) Alcohol and Other Drug Programs: Complaints

helps cities stay informed and support a more transparent oversight process.

For these reasons, the City of Newport Beach is pleased to support AB 424 (Davies).

Sincerely,



Joe Stapleton
Mayor
City of Newport Beach

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