



**CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH**

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**Mayor**

Joe Stapleton

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Sara J. Weber

Erik Kenneth Weigand

March 10, 2025

The Honorable Darshana Patel  
California State Assembly  
1021 O Street, Room 5140  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 448 (Patel): Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program:  
Requirements City of Newport Beach – Notice of Support**

Dear Assembly Member Patel,

On behalf of the City of Newport Beach, I write to express our support for AB 448 (Patel), which enhances protections for children and youth in short-term residential therapeutic programs (STRTPs) by requiring at least one parent or guardian to reside within the state during a child's treatment. STRTPs provide specialized intensive treatment and oversight of children, youth, and nonminor dependents whose needs cannot be served in a less restrictive environment.

Our community recognizes the vital role of family stability in the development and well-being of children and youth, especially those receiving intensive therapeutic treatment. AB 448 strengthens fundamental protections by requiring at least one parent or legal guardian to reside within the state during a child's treatment, ensuring ongoing familial support and oversight. Additionally, this measure guarantees that children in STRTPs have the right to make confidential phone calls to their guardians and access appropriate outdoor footwear, addressing both emotional and physical well-being. By introducing these critical safeguards, AB 448 helps children in therapeutic programs maintain strong family connections and receive proper care in a secure and supportive environment.

Additionally, by requiring a STRTP to publicly post the requirements of this measure on its website, AB 448 promotes transparency and public awareness, allowing families and advocates to stay informed about their rights and the facility's obligations. Including financial penalties and the potential for license revocation is a strong deterrent against non-compliance, ensuring greater accountability and adherence to proper care standards.

The provisions in AB 448 collectively help safeguard the well-being of children in STRTPs by reinforcing oversight, enforcement, and ethical treatment practices.

For these reasons, the City of Newport Beach supports AB 448 (Patel).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joe Stapleton', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Joe Stapleton  
Mayor, City of Newport Beach

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