



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH

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March 10, 2025

The Honorable Avelino Valencia
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Room 5510
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 492 (Valencia): Alcohol and Drug Programs: Licensing
City of Newport Beach – Notice of Support**

Dear Assembly Member Valencia,

On behalf of the City of Newport Beach, I write to express our support for AB 492 (Valencia), which requires the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to notify cities anytime a new alcohol and drug treatment facility is approved in their jurisdiction.

On October 24, 2024, the State Auditor released an audit of DHCS, that focused on residential drug and alcohol recovery and treatment facilities that provide services—such as detoxification and counseling—for substance use disorders. The audit findings provided recommendations to ensure that the individuals seeking care are doing so in a safe environment that would facilitate individuals recovering in a non-institutionalized residential setting. This bill will help ensure that appropriate processes are adopted to allow that to happen.

Further, by notifying cities of new licenses for substance abuse treatment facilities, cities can better coordinate resources and services to support the needs of individuals seeking treatment, including collaborating with the facilities to provide additional services, such as transportation, housing assistance, or job training programs.

AB 492 takes a critical step forward by keeping cities informed and enhancing their collaboration with the state to more effectively address substance use treatment needs.

For these reasons, the City of Newport Beach is pleased to support AB 492 (Valencia).

Sincerely,



Joe Stapleton
Mayor, City of Newport Beach

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