



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH

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Michelle Barto

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Erik Kenneth Weigand

March 10, 2025

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.

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.

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.

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

Sincerely,

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

Joe Stapleton
Mayor, City of Newport Beach

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