



March 10, 2026

**Mayor**

Lauren Kleiman

**Mayor Pro Tem**

Noah Blom

**Council Members**

Michelle Barto

Robyn Grant

Joe Stapleton

Sara J. Weber

Erik Kenneth Weigand

The Honorable Mia Bonta  
Chair, Assembly Health Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 390  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 2614 (Dixon) Public health: Body Brokering and Patient Referral Integrity Act  
Notice of Support – City of Newport Beach**

Dear Chair Bonta,

On behalf of the City of Newport Beach, I write to express my support for AB 2614 (Dixon), the Body Brokering and Patient Referral Integrity Act, which would establish meaningful enforcement authority to address exploitative patient referral practices in residential treatment settings.

Our City is committed to protecting individuals seeking treatment for substance use disorders and behavioral health challenges. These residents are among the most vulnerable members of our community. They are often in crisis, navigating complex health systems and relying on the integrity of providers to guide them towards appropriate care. AB 2614 directly addresses predatory business practices that exploit that vulnerability for financial gain.

This bill makes it unlawful to offer, pay, solicit, or receive commissions or any other form of payment in exchange for referring an individual to a residential treatment facility or accepting an individual into such a facility. By defining “residential treatment facility” to include sober living homes, recovery residences, group homes, and similar facilities, whether licensed or unlicensed, the bill closes loopholes that have allowed unscrupulous operators to evade accountability.

Financially motivated referral schemes undermine patient trust, distort clinical decision making, and interfere with appropriate placement in care. Individuals struggling with addiction or behavioral health disorders should be placed in programs based on medical necessity, safety, and suitability, not who is willing to pay the highest

referral fee. These practices lead to patient cycling, relapses and further harm.

AB 2614 creates a misdemeanor offense for violations, and by doing so, empowers local District Attorneys to investigate and prosecute body brokering activities. Providing clear criminal enforcement authority at the local level is essential to stopping this predatory practice. Cities regularly see the community impacts of unethical referral networks, yet enforcement tools have been insufficient. This bill establishes a clear standard and gives prosecutors the authority needed to deter bad actors.

The City of Newport Beach supports responsible, ethical providers who serve residents with compassion and professionalism. AB 2614 helps ensure that reputable operators are not undercut by those engaging in unlawful and exploitative financial agreements. By strengthening patient protections and reinforcing referral integrity, this bill enhances public health and community trust.

For these reasons, the City of Newport Beach is pleased to support AB 2614.

Sincerely,

Lauren Kleiman



Mayor  
City of Newport Beach

Cc: Newport Beach City Council