



April 4, 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 Laurie Davies
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 4720
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1779 (Davies) Alcoholism and drug abuse recovery
treatment programs: inducement of patients
City of Newport Beach – Notice of Support**

Dear Assemblymember Davies,

On behalf of the City of Newport Beach, I write in support of AB 1779 which strengthens protections for individuals seeking substance use disorder treatment by addressing unethical inducement practices and increasing transparency within the recovery system.

Cities across California are on the front lines of responding to the impacts of substance use disorders, including homelessness, public safety challenges and strain on local health and social service systems. Ensuring that individuals receive treatment based on genuine need rather than financial incentives or coercive recruitment practices is essential to improving long-term recovery outcomes. AB 1779 makes a meaningful step toward addressing these concerns by prohibiting the use of stipends, gift cards or other forms of compensation to entice individuals to enter, stay in or transfer between treatment programs, as well as to generate referrals or inflate insurance billing.

Additionally, the bill enhances accountability and transparency by requiring providers that offer transportation services, particularly air travel, to document costs, obtain written acknowledgments from patients and publicly report aggregated data. These provisions will help ensure that transportation is used appropriately to support access to care, rather than as a tool for patient brokering or exploitation.

AB 1779 also strengthens safeguards around post-treatment housing by requiring that any discounted housing offered after discharge meet recognized certification standards. This helps ensure that

individuals transitioning out of treatment are placed in safe, supportive environments that promote recovery and stability.

For these reasons, the City of Newport Beach is pleased to support AB 1779.

Sincerely,

Lauren Kleiman



Mayor
City of Newport Beach

Cc: Newport Beach City Council