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March 22, 2018

The Honorable Jim Wood
Chair, Assembly Committee on Health
State Capitol, Room 6005
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 3162 (Friedman) Alcohol and Drug Abuse Recovery or Treatment Facilities – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Wood,

California Contract Cities Association is proud to support AB 3162 (Friedman), which would provide needed legislative authority to reform outdated regulations for the licensing of residential drug and alcohol treatment facilities. AB 3162 would enable the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to protect patients and communities from exploitation of existing loopholes and inadequate penalties for noncompliance.

Under existing law, residential licensing does not specify that services provided under a residential license are administered at the specific location where the state license is issued. Because of the current ambiguity with the licensing of residential facilities, some licensees are buying multiple houses in neighborhoods, often next door to each other, impacting the stability of our neighborhoods, while making massive profits.

The combining of multi-structure facilities subverts local ordinances that ensure residential neighborhoods are used for residential purposes, while hindering the purposes of a residential license—to provide therapeutic benefits for recovery. Bad actors continue to operate multi-structure facilities, with little recourse and minimal repercussions. Increasing fines and penalties, as proposed in AB 3162, will provide additional incentives for all companies to comply with the law and serve the patients they are charged with.

For these reasons, Contract Cities strongly urges your support for AB 3162. Without legislative action, exploitation of our cities will continue to persist. Should you have any questions, please contact Michael Vuong at (562) 622-5533 or michael@contractcities.org.

Sincerely,

Michael T. Davitt
CCCA President
Mayor, La Cañada Flintridge

Lindsey Horvath
CCCA Legislative Committee Chair
Councilmember, West Hollywood

CC: Assemblymember Laura Friedman
League of California Cities