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Date

The Honorable Ed Hernandez
Chair, Senate Health Committee
California State Capitol, Room 2191
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 786 (Mendoza) Alcohol and Drug Abuse Recovery or Treatment Facilities
Notice of Support**

Dear Senator Hernandez,

The **City of _____** wishes to express our strong support for SB 786 (Mendoza). This bill aims to address the problem of overconcentration of alcohol and drug abuse treatment facilities in residential neighborhoods. We believe that this bill will strike the appropriate balance between giving cities greater local control in preventing overconcentration of rehabilitation facilities in residential areas, while protecting patients from profit-seeking companies seeking to undermine the successful model of therapeutic small group homes integrated into neighborhoods.

California law currently treats an alcohol and drug recovery facility with six or fewer beds as a residential use of a property for zoning purposes. We wholeheartedly support this policy as beneficial and therapeutic to both patients and to our city by allowing recovering patients to reintegrate with the community. However, profit-driven companies have exploited this policy in many cities to take over multiple adjoining to create "campus-style rehabilitation" facilities in single-family neighborhoods.

(Example of this happening in your city)

This is both detrimental to recovering patients seeking to better integrate into the surrounding community and to residential neighborhoods faced with becoming more like hospital zones. This also clearly contravenes the purpose of the law, which was to create rehabilitation facilities that would provide residential rather than medical settings to patients, to allow them to become part of the fabric of a community rather than segregating them from it.

SB 786 would correct this loophole by requiring the state to notify cities and counties of applications for licenses to build these facilities within 45 days of approving any applications, and allow cities and counties to request denial of the application if a proposed facility would be located within 300 feet of an existing facility. These noticing and distance provisions are required of other types of licensed group homes in California, so this bill would provide some much-needed consistency in California law.

Most importantly, SB 786 does not seek to discriminate against residential rehabilitation facilities, but will protect both patients and true residential group homes

from exploitation by profit-driven companies and will preserve the successful model of therapeutic small group homes integrated into neighborhoods.

Overall, we believe that SB 786 will give cities greater local control in preventing overconcentration of rehabilitation facilities while preserving a vital benefit to recovering drug and alcohol addiction patients. For these reasons, the City of _____ urges you to support SB 786.

Sincerely,

NAME:

TITLE:

CITY OF:

Cc: Senator Janet Nguyen, Vice-Chair, Senate Committee on Health
Senator Toni G. Atkins
Senator Connie M. Leyva
Senator Holly J. Mitchell
Senator Bill Monning
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