



CITY OF LAGUNA NIGUEL

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CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Elaine Gennawey
Mayor Pro Tem Sandy Rains
Council Member Kelly Jennings
Council Member Fred Minagar
Council Member Rischi Paul Sharma

July 12, 2022

The Honorable Tom Umberg
California State Assembly, 34th District
1021 O Street, Suite 6730
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: SUPPORT SB 1338 (Umberg) – Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court Program

Dear Senator Umberg,

The City of Laguna Niguel is pleased to inform you that we support SB 1338 in concept as an important tool to help communities address the growing crises of homelessness, mental health, and substance abuse. This bill would create a civil court system dedicated to managing individuals with serious mental health conditions and substance use disorders leading to homelessness or incarceration. As an interim solution to conservatorship, this program offers a new way for local agencies to connect individuals with effective treatment in a respectful and efficient manner.

As discussions continue on this bill, the City of Laguna Niguel would like to encourage a greater consideration of due process for program participants as well as ensuring that a full understanding of the financial impacts of the program is developed. It is critical that counties receive full funding for this program without having to divert funds from other valuable programs. Lastly, where possible, Laguna Niguel encourages collaboration amongst existing agencies rather than forming new and potentially duplicative bureaucratic structures.

Should you have any questions about our position, please contact Kevin O'Connor, Management Assistant, at koconnor@cityoflagunani.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elaine Gennawey".

Elaine Gennawey
Mayor