



CITY OF LAGUNA NIGUEL

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April 23, 2024

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

RE: AB 2121 (Dixon) Substance Use Disorder Treatment: Licensing.
Notice of Support (As Amended 03/18/2024)

Dear Assembly Member Bonta,

The City of Laguna Niguel **supports** AB 2121 (Dixon), requiring the Department of Health Care Services to notify cities when a license is issued for an alcoholism or drug treatment facility within their jurisdiction. The measure would also establish a 300-foot distance requirement between other alcoholism or drug treatment facilities, and community care facilities licensed by the Department of Social Services (DSS).

Residential recovery housing provides a wide range of benefits to some of California's most vulnerable residents. These facilities provide valuable rehabilitation and support services in a therapeutic environment, which can benefit both individual patients and the greater community. However, due to the profitability of economies of scale, these facilities often expand to neighboring residences, creating multi-structure, campus-style facilities, even though they are zoned for a single residence. While these facilities play a key role for communities and patients alike, their expanded scope, capacity, and overconcentration can undermine the goal of using residential neighborhoods as a therapeutic environment for the social integration of those in recovery.

The noticing and distancing provisions in AB 2121 are consistent with current California law for other types of group homes. Existing state law imposes noticing and 300-foot distancing requirements for every existing licensed group home in California, with the exception of alcohol and drug recovery facilities. The Legislature has recognized that "overconcentration" of facilities licensed by DSS will "impair the integrity of residential neighborhoods" [Health & Safety Code Secs. 1267.9 and 1520.5]. The Legislature defines "overconcentration" as facilities that are within 300 feet of each other. AB 2121 would simply provide consistency with all other State-licensed group homes to protect existing neighborhoods and protect the residential recovery model that benefits all categories of protected residents recovering in state-licensed group homes.

The City of Laguna Niguel believes AB 2121 is a common-sense solution that applies the same protections other group homes receive to alcohol and drug recovery facilities. By limiting the overconcentration of these facilities, we can protect the integrity of residential neighborhoods and ensure patients are receiving quality care in a therapeutic environment.

For these reasons, the City of Laguna Niguel **supports** AB 2121 (Dixon). We encourage the Assembly Committee on Health to hear this critical legislation at an upcoming hearing. Should you have any questions about our position, please contact Kevin O'Connor, Management Assistant, at koconnor@cityoflagunaniguel.org.

Sincerely,


Kelly Jennings
Mayor