



CITY OF LAGUNA NIGUEL

30111 Crown Valley Parkway, Laguna Niguel, California 92677
Phone: (949) 362-4300 Fax: (949) 362-4352

CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Ray Gennawey
Mayor Pro Tem Gene Johns
Council Member Kelly Jennings
Council Member Stephanie Oddo
Council Member Stephanie Winstead

March 11, 2025

The Honorable Caroline Menjivar
California State Senate, 20th District
1021 O Street, Room 3310
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: SB 329 (Blakespear) Alcohol and Drug Recovery or Treatment Facilities: Investigations – Letter of Support (As Introduced February 11, 2025)

Dear Senator Menjivar,

The City of Laguna Niguel is pleased to support Senate Bill 329 (Blakespear), which would require the State Department of Health Care Services to assign complaints to investigative analysts within 10 days of receiving them, and analysts would need to complete investigations within 60 days.

The City of Laguna Niguel recognizes the need for well-maintained and operated drug and alcohol treatment facilities. Residential recovery housing provides a wide range of benefits to some of California's most vulnerable residents. These facilities provide rehabilitation and support services in a therapeutic environment, which can benefit both individual patients and the greater community. However, these facilities often fail to meet the needs of their patients, patient's families, and community members.

In October 2024, the California State Auditor's Office released Report 2023-120 *Drug and Alcohol Treatment Facilities*, which showed that of the 60 investigations reviewed as part of the report, 22 took over a year to complete. Under current law, there is no timeline for complaints to be investigated by the Department of Health Care Services, allowing issues to go unaddressed, which hurts patient care.

SB 329 is common-sense legislation that addresses one of the key findings from the California State Auditor's Office by ensuring that complaints filed with the Department of Health Care Services are investigated in a timely manner. For these reasons, the City of Laguna Niguel strongly supports Senate Bill 329 and encourages members of the Senate Health Committee to vote in support of SB 329.

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

Sincerely,

Ray Gennawey
Mayor

Cc: Senate Health Committee Members
Senator Catherine Blakespear, 38th Senate District
Senator Steven Choi, 37th Senate District
Laguna Niguel City Council