



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH

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May 21, 2025

Mayor

Joe Stapleton

Mayor Pro Tem

Lauren Kleiman

Council Members

Michelle Barto

Noah Blom

Robyn Grant

Sara J. Weber

Erik Kenneth Weigand

The Honorable Thomas Umberg
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 7510
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 35 (Umberg): Alcohol and Drug Programs
City of Newport Beach – Notice of Support**

Dear Senator Umberg,

I write on behalf of the City of Newport Beach to express our support of SB 35, which allows local agencies to pursue enforcement of sober living homes that are out of compliance with state code; including allowing city officials to investigate sober living homes through unannounced site visits, if there is a reasonable belief that the home is noncompliant, with approval from the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS).

Sober living homes have raised concerns in communities regarding their quality of care and oversight. These facilities often operate in a gray area, lacking evidence-based care and appropriate licensing, which can lead to potential conflicts of interest and substandard care. SB 35 responds to these issues by reinforcing existing regulations and introducing local enforcement mechanisms to safeguard the well-being of California's most vulnerable populations.

SB 35 requires the DHCS to adopt a process that allows local agencies to request approval to conduct site visits of unlicensed sober living homes, based on their reasonable belief that the home is providing one or more nonmedical services requiring licensing. Allowing city and county authorities to partner with the state to conduct site inspections and enforce licensing laws enables swift action to address violations, ensure compliance, and protect public health and safety.

Cities are positioned to respond promptly to emerging issues or changes in their communities. Allowing them to partner with the state to conduct site inspections and enforce licensing laws enables swift action to address violations, ensure compliance, and protect public health and safety. SB 35 would help meet our shared goals of ensuring treatment facilities meet standards for patient care, which is central to effective treatment outcomes and community well-being.

For these reasons, the City of Newport Beach supports SB 35.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joe Stapleton', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joe Stapleton
Mayor

cc: Newport Beach City Council