



City of Mission Viejo

Office of the Mayor and City Council

Brian Goodell
Mayor

Trish Kelley
Mayor Pro Tem

Wendy Bucknum
Council Member

Bob Ruesch
Council Member

Cynthia Vasquez
Council Member

September 8, 2023

The Honorable Susan Talamantes Eggman
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 8530
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 531 (Irwin): The Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act of 2023
City of Mission Viejo– *Notice of Opposition Unless Amended*

Dear Senator Eggman and Assembly Member Irwin:

On behalf of the City of Mission Viejo, I write in opposition to AB 531 unless amended. AB 531 authorizes \$4,680,000,000 in bonds to finance grants for the construction and capital acquisition of community-based treatment settings, residential care settings, and housing for individuals who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness and are living with a behavioral health challenge.

While we agree that is long overdue that we modernize our approach to serving our fellow Californians who are most in need of the mental health care they deserve – we have serious concerns with the amendments taken on September 5 to create a by right approval process for adult substance use disorder residential programs and recovery housing located in in multifamily residential use zones.

The residents that are receiving treatment from these recovery houses are members of our most vulnerable population. It is critical that the individuals receiving care in these facilities are set up for success with close management and regulations to ensure that these facilities are operating in the manner intended. If these facilities are not properly managed or regulated it can lead to severe issues for both the residents and for the surrounding community. We are concerned that a by right approach will allow these facilities to open anywhere in our community without appropriate oversight and will create serious challenges for the residents of the facilities as well as their neighbors.

We are respectfully requesting that you remove the by right approval for adult substance use disorder residential programs and recovery housing in multifamily residential zones from AB 531.

Sincerely,
DocuSigned by:


Brian Goodell

Mayor
City of Mission Viejo

cc: Assemblymember Kate Sanchez
Senator Catherine Blakespear

