



City of Mission Viejo

Office of the Mayor and City Council

*Trish Kelley
Mayor*

*Bob Ruesch
Mayor Pro Tem*

*Wendy Bucknum
Council Member*

*Brian Goodell
Council Member*

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Council Member*

April 2, 2024

The Honorable Thomas Umberg
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 6530
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 913 (Umberg): Substance Use Disorder Treatment: Facilities
City of Mission Viejo – Notice of Support**

Dear Senator Umberg,

I write on behalf of the City of Mission Viejo to express our support of SB 913, 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.

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 913 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 913 requires the Department of Health Care Services 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, ensures compliance, and protects public health and safety.



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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 913 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 Mission Viejo supports SB 913.

Sincerely,



Trish Kelley
Mayor

cc: Mission Viejo City Council

