City of Mission Viejo

Office of the Mayor and City Council

Wendy Bucknum
Mayor

Edward Sachs
Mayor Pro Tem

Brian Goodell
Council Member

Trish Kelley
Council Member

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June 8, 2022

The Honorable Tom Umberg
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 6730
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

RE: Mission Viejo Support - SB 1338 (Umberg and Eggman) Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court Program.

Dear Senators Umberg and Eggman,

On behalf of the City of Mission Viejo, I write in support of your SB 1338, which establishes the Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court Act for the purpose of providing a court-ordered CARE plan to individuals who have a severe mental illness and meet other specified criteria that includes behavioral health treatment services, a trained supporter to assist the respondent in navigating the process and identifies an appropriate housing plan.

Our top priority continues to be addressing our State's homelessness crisis, and we feel strongly that your legislation provides a critical framework that will help address this issue. However, we ask that you consider the financial impact to municipalities, as well as the other appropriate implementing agencies, in order to appropriately carry out this legislation. Currently, the bill does not dedicate a stable funding source to support the increased development of permanent supportive housing structures. In order to ensure that the bill is effective, it is critical that this funding be provided in order to support the policy.

CARE Court is designed on the evidence that many people can stabilize, begin healing, and exit homelessness in less restrictive, community-based care settings. It's a long-term

strategy to positively impact the individual in care and the community around them. The plan advances an upstream diversion from more restrictive conservatorships or incarceration, and with appropriate funding, will be a significant step forward in providing resources to our most vulnerable populations.

Thank you for your hard work on this critical policy topic.

Sincerely,

Wendy Bucknum
Mayor

cc: Governor Gavin Newsom
Senate Pro Tem Toni Atkins
Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon
Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly, California Health and Human Services Agency
Assembly Member Laurie Davies
Senator Patricia Bates
City of Mission Viejo City Council Members