



PEGGY LEMONS
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Councilmember

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Councilmember

VILMA CUELLAR STALLINGS
Councilmember

April 7, 2026

The Honorable Mia Bonta
Chair, Assembly Health Committee
1020 N Street, Room 390
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 329 (Blakespear) Alcohol and drug recovery or treatment facilities: investigations. Notice of SUPPORT (As Amended 03/28/2025)

Dear Assembly Member Bonta,

The City of Paramount is pleased to support SB 329 (Blakespear), which would require the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to complete timely investigations into complaints about alcohol or drug treatment facilities.

While existing law requires DHCS to investigate complaints against licensed alcohol and drug treatment facilities, it does not establish timelines for completing those investigations. SB 329 sets clear, reasonable deadlines—aligned with existing DHCS policy—to enhance public transparency and ensure providers are held accountable for delivering high-quality treatment and care.

A recent State audit on drug and alcohol treatment facilities in California confirmed what cities across the state have been saying for years: DHCS does not always promptly or thoroughly investigate complaints. 22 of the 60 investigations the audit reviewed took over a year to complete, with 10 of those investigations taking more than 600 days. Delays like these allow serious problems to go unchecked, jeopardizing the health and safety of those receiving care and impacting the broader community at large.

As a dense, built-out community with a high proportion of multifamily housing and limited space for social-service facilities, the City of Paramount is directly affected when DHCS investigations into treatment-facility complaints are delayed. Paramount has experienced situations where unlicensed or poorly managed sober living homes have generated neighborhood concerns, strained public safety resources, and created uncertainty for residents who rely on legitimate, licensed recovery services. When DHCS investigations take months—or years—to complete, cities like Paramount are left without timely information or enforcement support, prolonging unsafe conditions for both clients and surrounding neighborhoods. SB 329 would ensure that complaints are addressed

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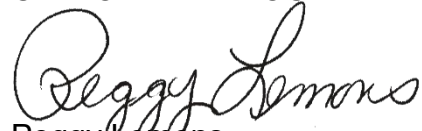
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promptly, that facilities operating in Paramount are held to consistent standards, and that the City can better protect residents by relying on a predictable, transparent State oversight process.

Residential recovery housing provides a wide range of benefits to some of California's most vulnerable residents, and it is critical that their needs are prioritized over profits. Compliance with state licensing laws administered through DHCS is essential to safeguarding residents' well-being and maintaining quality care.

For these reasons, the City of Paramount is pleased to support SB 329 (Blakespear). Please feel free to contact City Manager John Moreno at (562) 220-2225, if you have any questions. We thank you for your time and consideration.

CITY OF PARAMOUNT



Peggy Lemons
Mayor

Cc: Honorable Congresswoman Nanette Barragan, 44th District
Honorable Assemblymember Jose Luis Solache, 62nd District
Honorable State Senator Lena Gonzalez, 33rd District
Nicholas Cabeza, Public Affairs Manager, League of California Cities
Jorge Morales, Legislative and Governmental Affairs Consultant, California Contract Cities Association