



May 8, 2025

The Honorable Anna Caballero
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 412
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

Dear Senator Caballero,

The City of Irvine 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 California have been saying for years: DHCS does not always promptly or thoroughly investigate complaints. Twenty-two of the 60 investigations the audit reviewed took over a year to complete, with ten 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 the broader community.

The City of Irvine's Community Development team has assessed the language and feels this bill will benefit our residents.

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 the DHCS is essential to safeguarding residents' well-being and maintaining quality care.

For these reasons, the City of Irvine is pleased to support **SB 329 (Blakespear)**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry Agran". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Larry" and last name "Agran" clearly distinguishable.

Larry Agran
Mayor
City of Irvine

cc: Senator Steven Choi
Senator Catherine Blakespear
Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris
City Manger Oliver Chi
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