



September 10, 2018

**MAYOR &  
CITY COUNCIL**

Judy Ritter  
Mayor

John J. Aguilera  
Deputy Mayor

Amanda Rigby  
Councilmember

John B. Franklin  
Councilmember

Joe Green  
Councilmember

**CITY MANAGER**

Patrick Johnson

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol, First Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
VIA Email: Leg.Unit@gov.ca.gov

**Re: AB 3162 (Friedman) Alcoholism or drug abuse recovery or treatment facilities –  
Request for Signature**

Dear Governor Brown:

The City of Vista urges your signature on AB 3162 (Friedman), which would help maintain residential neighborhoods as a therapeutic environment for the social integration of disabled persons, including recovering alcoholics and addicts. This bill would do so by reforming outdated regulations for the licensing of residential drug and alcohol treatment facilities to enable authority for the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to ensure compliance with existing licensing laws.

Residential drug and alcohol treatment facilities provide valuable rehabilitation and supportive services in a therapeutic environment, which can benefit both individual patients and the greater community. However, some business owners have found loopholes within the existing laws and have exploited them for personal gain. The single licensed rehabilitation facility nestled into the fabric of a community has been taken over by companies that have created multi-structure, campus-style facilities within a residentially zoned neighborhood.

The City of Vista has seen the negative impacts of multiple facilities moving into residential neighborhoods. Families have seen neighborhoods transform from quiet, single-family homes into multi-resident facilities filled with patients who are not always responsible neighbors. Our city has received numerous complaints from residents regarding their negative interactions with residential patients, the legality of these facilities, and the transformation they have made to neighborhoods.

AB 3162 clarifies existing law, while also establishing a one-year provisional license to serve as a probationary period for new licenses so that DHCS has time to analyze and determine compliance with regulations. Additionally, AB 3162 updates fines for non-compliance to be more commensurate with similar licensing fines. Due to abundant profits and the current fines and penalty structure, many operators continue to operate multi-structure facilities and pay minimal fines. Increasing fines and penalties will help provide an additional incentive for companies to comply with the law and provide the needed care for the patients.

The City of Vista is committed to advocating for efforts that enhance local control of resources, programs and tools that allow the City to address the needs and concerns of its residents. AB 3162 creates a tool to address its residents' concerns about the boom of residential drug and alcohol treatment facilities in our community. For these reasons, the City of Vista requests your signature on AB 3162.

Sincerely,

Judy Ritter, Mayor  
City of Vista

cc: Graciela Castillo-Krings, Office of Governor Brown, VIA Email: Graciela.Castillo-Krings@gov.ca.gov  
Senator Patricia Bates, FAX: (916) 651-4936  
Assemblymember Rocky Chavez, FAX: (916) 319-2176  
Assemblymember Laura Friedman, FAX: (916)-319-2143  
Assemblywoman Marie Waldron; FAX: (916) 319-2175  
Meg Desmond, League of California Cities, VIA Email: cityletters@cacities.org