



March 21, 2019

**MAYOR &
CITY COUNCIL**

Judy Ritter
Mayor

John B. Franklin
Deputy Mayor

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Councilmember

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Contreras**
Councilmember

CITY MANAGER
Patrick Johnson

Assembly Member Jim Wood
Chair of the Health Committee
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Room 4140
Sacramento, CA 94249-0056

Re: AB 704 (Patterson): Alcoholism or drug abuse recovery or treatment facilities. – Support

Dear Assembly Member Wood:

On behalf of the City of Vista, we request your support on AB 704 (Patterson). This bill would require a person who has responsibility for residents of an alcoholism or drug abuse recovery or treatment facility to be subject to a criminal record review.

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, throughout Southern California, and in the City of Vista, there has been a proliferation of these facilities clustering in residential neighborhoods with limited regulation that a city can enforce.

In the City of Vista we have seen the negative impacts of multiple facilities moving into residential neighborhoods. Addiction treatment and recovery facilities are scattered throughout the City of Vista, including in our residential neighborhoods. 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.

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 704 creates one additional safeguard for alcohol or drug abuse recovery or treatment facilities, by requiring criminal background checks for employees, and thus protecting the patients at these facilities and the communities where these facilities are located. For these reasons, the City of Vista requests your support on AB 704.

Sincerely,

Judy Ritter
Mayor

cc: Assembly Member Jim Wood, Chair of the Health Committee
Assembly Member Chad Mayes, Vice Chair of the Health Committee
Office of Assembly Member Tasha Boerner Horvath, Kathleen.Sadd@asm.ca.gov
Office of Congressman Mike Levin, Kyle.Krahel@mail.house.gov
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