



February 23, 2026

The Honorable Thomas Umberg  
California State Senate  
1021 O Street, Suite 7510  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 490 (Umberg) Alcohol and drug programs  
City of Irvine – Notice of Support**

Dear Senator Umberg,

I write on behalf of the City of Irvine to express our support of SB 490, which allows local agencies to pursue enforcement of sober living homes that are out of compliance with state code, including allowing city officials to investigate sober living homes through unannounced site visits, if there is a reasonable belief that the home is noncompliant, with approval from the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS).

Sober living homes have raised concerns in communities regarding their quality of care and oversight. These facilities often operate in a gray area, lacking evidence-based care and appropriate licensing, which can lead to potential conflicts of interest and substandard care. SB 490 responds to these issues by reinforcing existing regulations and introducing local enforcement mechanisms to safeguard the well-being of California's most vulnerable populations.

A recent state [audit](#) revealed that DHCS has not consistently investigated allegations of unlicensed facilities providing or advertising treatment services. The department has often failed to conduct site visits and follow-ups to ensure illegal operations have stopped.

In one example highlighted in the audit, DHCS substantiated an allegation that an unlicensed facility was unlawfully providing services. However, the audit found no indication the department followed up to verify the facility's claim that it had ceased operations — nor did it conduct a site visit to confirm compliance.

To address these gaps, the auditor recommended that DHCS improve the timeliness of inspections and complaint investigations, conduct more site visits, and establish follow-up procedures to ensure unlicensed facilities cease unlawful operations.

SB 490 requires the DHCS to adopt a process that allows local agencies to request approval to conduct site visits of unlicensed sober living homes, based on their reasonable belief that the home is providing one or more nonmedical services requiring licensing. Allowing city and county

authorities to partner with the State to conduct site inspections and enforce licensing laws enables swift action to address violations, ensures compliance, and protects public health and safety.

Cities are positioned to respond promptly to emerging issues or changes in their communities. Allowing them to partner with the state to conduct site inspections and enforce licensing laws enables swift action to address violations, ensure compliance, and protect public health and safety. SB 490 would help meet our shared goals of ensuring treatment facilities meet standards for patient care, which is central to effective treatment outcomes and community well-being.

For these reasons, the City of Irvine supports SB 490.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry Agran". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent underline under the first name.

Larry Agran  
Mayor  
City of Irvine

cc: Irvine City Council  
Sean Crumby, City Manager