



May 23, 2022

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
 Governor of California
 California State Capitol
 Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Thomas Umberg
 California State Senate
 1021 O Street, Ste. 6730
 Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Susan Eggman
 California State Senate
 1021 O Street, Ste. 8530
 Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: CARES ACT - SUPPORT

Dear Governor Newsom, Senator Umberg and Senator Eggman:

California Chamber of Commerce and our colleagues from chambers of commerce throughout the state are pleased to support the CARE Court proposal, as embodied in SB 1338, amended May 19th, 2022.

The CARE Court is a thoughtful, measured response to the tragedy of homeless mentally ill or substance abuse disordered individuals. It attempts to thread the needle of providing necessary care and treatment in an environment appropriate to deliver those services; that is, a supportive setting that is neither outdoors or incarcerated. Importantly, the individuals to be served by this approach lack the capacity to make medical decisions for themselves; the only alternatives are the status quo, which is continued desperate deterioration living outdoors, or in a far more restrictive conservatorship or incarceration.

California employers have a clear stake in improving the treatment and outcomes for severely mentally disabled individuals without a fixed residence. First, they are our fellow Californians, in severe need, for whom we have an obligation of care. Second, many employers share neighborhoods with mentally disabled or substance abuse disordered individuals, so have first-hand experience with the failure of our institutions to adequately serve them and address their misery. Finally, as taxpayers and business leaders, employers want to see their private investment return healthy, thriving communities.

With the CARE Courts proposal, Governor Newsom and the authors have taken on one of the most difficult and heart wrenching challenges – providing lifesaving services to severely mentally incapacitated homeless individuals.

The CARE Court is a thoughtful, prudent and judicious approach to serve what has been a historically intractable problem. We appreciate your leadership on this issue and offer our support and assistance as this solution is developed.

Sincerely,



Ben Golombek
Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff for Policy

California Chamber of Commerce
Central City Association of Los Angeles
Fontana Chamber of Commerce
Garden Grove Chamber of Commerce
Harbor Association of Industry and Commerce
Laguna Niguel Chamber of Commerce
Lake Elsinore Valley Chamber of Commerce
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
Los Angeles County Business Federation, BizFed
Oceanside Chamber of Commerce
Orange County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Palos Verdes Peninsula Chamber of Commerce
Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce
San Pedro Chamber of Commerce
Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce
Santa Rosa Metro Chamber of Commerce
Santee Chamber of Commerce
South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce
Tulare Chamber of Commerce
Valley Industry and Commerce Association
West Ventura County Business Alliance

cc: Legislative Affairs, Office of the Governor
California State Senate

BG:am