



May 3, 2023

Assemblymember David Alvarez
Chair
Joint Legislative Audit Committee
1020 N St., Room 107
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Catherine Blakespear
Vice Chair
Joint Legislative Audit Committee
1020 N St., Room 107
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chair Alvarez and Vice Chair Blakespear:

I am writing in support of the recent letter submitted to the Joint Legislative Audit Committee (JLAC) by Assemblymember Diane Dixon (dated May 1, 2023) regarding her request for an audit of the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and its role in licensing, regulating, and overseeing recovery residences, or sober living homes.

As outlined in the letter, the request is for an audit to ensure that sober living homes that are licensed by DHCS are being maintained and operated in a way that best serves the residents of these facilities and their neighbors. As you may know, state law requires any person or entity that operates, establishes, manages, conducts, or maintains a facility that provides 24-hour nonmedical, residential, alcoholism or drug abuse recovery or treatment services to adults to first obtain a valid license from the DHCS; however, facilities routinely open for business without obtaining a proper license. (California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 9, Chapter 5, Section 10505(a).) Allowing these facilities to operate prior to obtaining a license or while a license is pending would be in violation of this regulation.

Additionally, the city supports the proposed audit to reveal information regarding the number of licensing requests the Department receives, the types of licenses requested, enforcement policies, the number of licenses denied by DHCS, the consideration of local zoning ordinances, and evaluation policies of patients' health outcomes. I respectfully request that the JLAC approve the request from Assemblymember Dixon – thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,