



C.A.S.A

CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE FOR STATE ADVOCACY

April 17, 2023

Honorable Sharon Quirk-Silva
Member of the Assembly
Capitol Swing Space
Room #4210
1021 O Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 1477 – Alcohol and drug treatment programs: licensing and certification.

Dear Assemblymember Quirk-Silva:

On behalf of California Alliance for State Advocacy, I would like to convey our support of **Assembly Bill 1477** to require the state to temporarily freeze all licensing and certification fees for all substance use disorder providers at 2022 rates. As a substance use disorder (SUD) provider who was deeply impacted by the COVID-19 emergency, I can tell you that the SUD treatment system has not fully recovered from the impact of the pandemic and we now face a surge in demand for services, and a critical workforce shortage.

The California Alliance for State Advocacy seeks to promote the advancement of addiction focused professionals by uniting alcoholism and addiction counselors, prevention specialists, and others who have a direct interest in the field of recovery throughout the State of California. This is done through legislative advocacy, professional growth opportunities, academic growth opportunities, business growth opportunities, peer assistance, and ethical standards.

The proposed 75% increase in state licensing and certification fees now being considered by the Legislature would adversely affect our program and may force others with slim margins to close when we need them the most. Given the circumstances of record overdose fatalities and a declining workforce, a licensure and certification fee increase of the magnitude proposed by the state would devastate our small six-bed programs who make up one-half of our capacity. **AB 1477** will halt any proposed increases in licensing and certification fees for non-profit substance use disorder providers until January 1, 2031, or until deaths related to any opioid overdose reported by the California Overdose Surveillance Dashboard have declined by 50%, whichever is first. This ensures that providers can keep their doors open and continue to serve those most in need.

It is urgent that we do not further burden providers at this time. AB 1477 is a measure to ensure non-profit SUD treatment providers have the opportunity to build the foundation they need to withstand future licensure and certification fee increases.

Thank you for your leadership in supporting this important measure.

Sincerely,

Brooke Cianciotta, B.S.

Brooke Cianciotta, B.S./President

c.c.: Assembly Health Members