

Attachment B:

Letters Submitted to Date (aligned with Legislative Guidelines)

AB 1505, SB 43, SB 363, and SB 719

May 4, 2023

The Honorable Freddie Rodriguez
California State Assembly, District 53
1021 O Street, Room 1200
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1505 (Rodriguez) Seismic Retrofitting: Soft Story Multifamily Housing
City of Palo Alto - Notice of Support**

Dear Assembly Member Rodriguez,

On behalf of the City of Palo Alto, I write in support of your legislation AB 1505, which would grant \$250,000,000 from the General Fund in the 2023–24 Budget Act to the Seismic Retrofitting Program for Soft Story Multifamily Housing Fund. This critical funding provides for matching grants for seismic retrofit engineering and construction to protect affordable multifamily housing developments from earthquakes.

With California's historic vulnerability to earthquakes, it is urgent and imperative to provide funding for seismic retrofitting. Funding for this program was originally included in budget trailer legislation and signed into law by the Governor in 2022. However, the funding was proposed to be omitted from the 2023 preliminary budget submitted to the Legislature. AB 1505 will work to restore this funding on an urgency basis.

To keep our community safe from future earthquake damage and fatalities, it is pertinent to comply with seismic building standards, and provide adequate funding to ensure public safety and disaster preparedness needs are met. California has historically been a hub of major earthquake disasters, given its position along the tectonic plate boundaries including the San Andreas, San Gregorio-Hosgri, and Hayward-Rodgers Creek fault zones.

AB 1505 will help protect our State and local communities from earthquake damage and devastation by ensuring compliance with seismic retrofitting to proactively prepare for future disasters. By submitting this letter, we express our support for the inclusion of the pre-dedicated \$250 million for seismic retrofitting support in the upcoming iteration of the State's budget, whether catalyzed by this legislation or similar budget trailer legislation.

For these reasons, the City of Palo Alto supports AB 1505.

Sincerely,



Lydia Kou
Mayor
City of Palo Alto

May 4, 2023

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

**RE: SB 43 (Eggman) Behavioral Health.
City of Palo Alto – Notice of Support**

Dear Senator Eggman,

On behalf of the City of Palo Alto, I write in support of your SB 43, which modernizes portions of California's behavioral health treatment system and social safety net system to ensure that vulnerable individuals with the most acute needs receive access to the care they need.

SB 43 modernizes the definition of "gravely disabled" within the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act to include conditions that result in a substantial risk of serious harm to an individual's physical or mental health. This includes the inability to seek medical care, adequate shelter, or self-protection and safety. Updating this definition better reflects the contemporary realities present in our communities, ensuring that individuals at risk of significant harm receive the help they need.

Additionally, this measure allows relevant medical history to be considered by the court in a uniform manner across the state by creating a hearsay exemption for information contained in a medical record so all relevant information can be presented and considered by the court. This would ensure that a complete and accurate picture is presented in court when considering the very serious step of conservatorship.

Cities are on the front lines of addressing homelessness and need additional tools and resources to end this crisis in our state. We recognize that for unsheltered individuals with severe behavioral health needs, access to a comprehensive care system can be essential to addressing their homelessness. That is why The City of Palo Alto is eager to support legislation such as SB 43, which takes a comprehensive look at our existing system and makes targeted improvements.

For these reasons, the City of Palo Alto is pleased to support your SB 43.

Sincerely,



Lydia Kou
Mayor
City of Palo Alto

May 4, 2023

The Honorable Susan Eggman
Chair, Senate Health Committee
State Capitol, Room 3310
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 363 (Eggman) Facilities for inpatient and residential mental health and substance use disorder: database.
City of Palo Alto – Notice of Support**

Dear Senator Eggman,

On behalf of the City of Palo Alto, I write in support of your SB 363, which would establish a real-time behavioral health bed database.

Specifically, this measure would require the State Department of Health Care Services to develop a database by 2025 to collect, aggregate, and display information about beds in inpatient psychiatric facilities, crisis stabilization units, community care facilities, and licensed residential alcoholism or drug abuse recovery or treatment facilities. This information would help provide timely access to care and increase coordination between service settings.

SB 363 would additionally require this database to include data related to the facility, including if a bed is available, the services provided, diagnoses, and the age range for which the bed is appropriate. This data would streamline access to care and be a valuable tool for local leaders and policymakers in directing funding and resources based on bed capacity and utilization.

Mental illness and substance use, like many other health conditions, when treated early and with appropriate supports and services, will be less disabling and result in fewer adverse outcomes. SB 363 would provide easily accessible bed availability data that would connect individuals to care more quickly, and also help cut down on extended emergency room stays. As a City we have prioritized community health and safety and believe that mental health support is a vital part of health and safety.

We believe SB 363 is a step in the right direction, providing critical data to help assess the capacity of our system.

For these reasons, the City of Palo Alto is pleased to support your SB 363.

Sincerely,



Lydia Kou
Mayor
City of Palo Alto

May 4, 2023

The Honorable Josh Becker
California State Senate, District 53
1021 O Street, Room 7250
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 719 (Becker) Law enforcement agencies: radio communications
City of Palo Alto - Notice of Support**

Dear Senator Becker,

On behalf of the City of Palo Alto, I write in support of your SB 719, which requires a law enforcement agency (LEA) to ensure any non-confidential radio communications are accessible to the public, in real time. Specifically, this bill allows an LEA to choose one of the following options to provide public access to certain radio communications: (a) provide unencrypted radio communications that may be accessed on a scanner or is available on-line, or (b) provide encrypted communications, if requested. The bill does not require access to channels used for confidential information or other communications that would unreasonably jeopardize public safety or the safety of officers if made public.

In October of 2020, the California Department of Justice (DOJ) sent out a bulletin to all law enforcement agencies regarding radio encryption. This bulletin stemmed from an order by the Federal Bureau of Investigations to restrict all criminal justice information (CJI) and personal identifiable information (PII) to authorized personnel. The bulletin stated all transmission of such information must be encrypted and provided agencies two options: 1) move to full encryption of radio communications, or 2) establish a policy to restrict dissemination of CJI and PII, or data elements that meet those definitions.

The City agrees that access to police activity, while still ensuring safeguards for the public's sensitive and confidential information, is important. This information helps local news outlets provide real time updates for major news events such as wildfires and other public safety concerns.

The City of Palo Alto is proud to support your efforts to increase visibility for the public and the media into police calls for service. Palo Alto last year unencrypted the police department's primary dispatch channel thus providing real-time radio access to police communications while protecting personal information. Your bill would encourage other police departments to seek solutions to protect data while also providing public access.

Existing law does not guarantee public access to police radio communications, nor does it prohibit public access to unencrypted police radio channels. Existing law does, however, make it a crime to use any intercepted public safety radio communication to assist in the commission of a crime or evade capture by law enforcement. This bill provides much needed clarity for how the public

may access and utilize police communications to ensure the public's safety, police safety, and confidentiality.

For these reasons, the City of Palo Alto is pleased to support your SB 719.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lydia Kou', with a small horizontal line underneath the name.

Lydia Kou
Mayor
City of Palo Alto