May 22, 2013

Honorable Mike Gatto, Chair
Assembly Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Assembly Member Gatto:

On behalf of the California Society of Addiction Medicine (CSAM), a statewide organization of physicians who specialize in the treatment of substance abuse disorders, I write to express our wholehearted support for AB 40 (Mansoor) to require an alcoholism or drug abuse program licensee to report specified events or incidents, including among other things, the death of a program resident, telephonically within one working day of the event or incident, and to provide a written report, as specified, within 7 days of the event or incident.

Because of lax reporting requirements, we do not know the true extent of accidents and deaths that may have occurred. This problem was clearly illustrated in the Senate Office of Oversight and Outcomes report entitled: Rogue Rehabs. AB 40 seeks to bring these incidents to light.

In addition, under existing law the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (DADP) cannot license a residential treatment facility where it knows that medical services are being provided to the residents. AB 40 would require reporting of accidents and deaths that may occur in residential facilities because the facility is prohibited from providing medical care to patients (due to current state regulations.)

Another bill, AB 395 (Fox), seeks to address the limitations on medical services by changing the regulations to allow physicians to provide appropriate medical care to persons undergoing withdrawal in residential treatment facilities. When AB 395 and AB 40 are both signed into law, there will be a strict requirement for reporting serious incidents and in an effort to prevent accidents and deaths, residential treatment facilities will be able to provide limited medical services under state supervision.

CSAM respectfully requests your Aye vote on AB 40 (Mansoor).

Sincerely,

Kerry Parker, CAE
Executive Director

Cc: Assembly Member Allan R. Mansoor
c/o Calvin Rusch