Honorable Richard Pan, MD, Chair  
Assembly Committee on Health  
State Capitol, Room 6005  
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: AB 395 (Fox)  
Position: Co-Sponsor – Support  
Hearing: April 9, 2013

Dear Doctor Pan:

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 395 (Fox) which will finally make it clear that physicians may provide appropriate medical services to persons undergoing withdrawal in residential treatment facilities.

It has long been common practice and is simply common sense to provide medical care for those undergoing withdrawal from alcohol and other drugs. However, the underlying California statute that underlies the department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (DADP) regulation of residential treatment facilities was written in a time when treatment of substance abuse disorder was understood to be solely a social/behavioral issue. Our understanding of the medical side of addiction and treatment has advanced. Yet, the underlying law has remained the same.

Currently, DADP cannot license a residential treatment facility where it knows that medical service is being provided to the residents – a situation graphically illustrated in the Senate Office of Oversight and Outcomes report entitled: Rogue Rehabs.

AB 395 (Fox) takes a modest first step toward solving this problem by updating the law to match the actual practice in the field by allowing residential treatment facilities to provide limited medical services under state supervision.

For these reasons, CSAM respectfully requests your Aye vote on AB 395 (Fox).

Sincerely,

Kerry Parker, CAE  
Executive Director

Cc: Members of the Assembly Health Committee  
Assemblymember Fox  
Cassie Royce – Committee Consultant