



City of Manhattan Beach

1400 Highland Avenue, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
Phone: (310) 802-5000 Fax: (310) 802-5001 TDD: (310) 546-3501

March 22, 2018

The Honorable Mike Gipson
California State Assembly
State Capitol Building, Room 3173
Sacramento, CA 95814
VIA FAX: 916-651-2164

RE: Support for AB 1795 (Gipson) Emergency Medical Services: Community Care Facilities

Dear Assemblymember Gipson:

The City of Manhattan Beach supports your authored legislation, Assembly Bill (AB) 1795, which would give local emergency medical services agencies the authority to create community paramedicine plans to allow well-trained paramedics to transport people to specified mental health urgent care centers or to sobering centers, if available. These alternate destination community paramedicine programs allow patients to have more direct access to appropriate care.

The City's Fire Department regularly tracks data on the paramedics' primary impression of a patient's presentation. In 2017, paramedics determined that 36 patients presented themselves as affected by alcohol, 61 patients presented themselves as in behavioral/psychological crisis, and 64 patients were suspected to have alcohol use.

Depending on the criteria established in the revised Emergency Medical Services program, AB 1795 will allow some of these patients to be taken to mental health urgent care center or sobering center which are well-equipped to offer specialized care and supportive services.

Providing local emergency medical services agencies with the authority to craft their own innovative plans for emergency care is a necessary action not only to improve patient safety and health care outcomes but to alleviate overcrowded emergency departments.

For these reasons, the City of Manhattan Beach City Council supports AB 1795.

Sincerely,

Amy Howorth, Mayor
City of Manhattan Beach

CC: Governor Jerry Brown
Assembly Committee on Health
League of California Cities