



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE ▪ BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

Robert Wunderlich, Mayor

May 12, 2021

The Honorable Henry Stern
California State Senate, 27th District
State Capitol, Room 5080
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 284 (Stern) – Workers’ compensation: firefighters and peace officers: post-traumatic stress
The City of Beverly Hills – OPPOSE

Dear Senator Stern,

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I write to you in respectful OPPOSITION to your SB 284 which would expand the current Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) presumption to thousands of additional safety officers and non-sworn personnel. SB 284 proposes to expand the PTSD presumption to cover public safety dispatchers, public safety telecommunications, and emergency response communication employees.

We appreciate and admire the work of those that serve our communities with courage and distinction. These admirable public servants deserve a healthy and sustainable system to provide care and healing when physically injured or suffering other harm while in service. We do not believe the SB 284 is necessary to provide California employees with fair access to the workers’ compensation system for psychiatric injuries.

The state’s current workers’ compensation system strikes a balance with respect to psychiatric injuries. California’s workers’ compensation system is studied thoroughly on an annual basis, and yet there is no evidence to suggest the workers’ compensation system is treating PTSD claims unfairly.

In 2019, the Legislature adopted your SB 542 without any data or analysis to objectively demonstrate a lack of access to necessary treatment for police officers or firefighters seeking care for PTSD. SB 284 would double down on this dangerous expansion with another dangerous, uninformed expansion.

We believe strongly that SB 284, coming so closely on the heels of your measure from 2019, is premature. We believe the state should conduct a thorough, objective analysis to establish evidence that these job classifications merit the elimination of all statutory claims review procedures that accompany a workers' compensation PTSD presumption.

For these reasons, we remain in opposition to SB 284. We hope to work with your office and other affected local governments and organizations under this proposed legislation to find a workable solution that provides a more thorough analysis of the current program.

Sincerely,



Robert Wunderlich

Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

Cc: The Honorable Anthony Portantino, Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Ben Allen, Senator, 26th Senate District
The Honorable Richard Bloom, Assemblyman 50th District
Andrew Antwih, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange