



CITY OF OCEANSIDE

August 20, 2020

The Honorable Eloise Reyes
California State Senate
State Capitol Building, Room 2175
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **AB 685 (Reyes) Occupational Safety: COVID-19 Exposure Notification
Notice of Opposition**

Dear Assemblymember Reyes,


On behalf of the City of Oceanside, I'm writing to respectfully oppose AB 685, which creates an onerous set of reporting requirements for all California employers when an employee is exposed to COVID-19. While it is certainly a valid concern to ensure our public sector workforce is notified of potential COVID-19 exposure, this measure sets an aggressive timeline for notification, creates compliance challenges through the use of ambiguous thresholds, and establishes significant financial and misdemeanor penalties per violation. Our objections to this measure are rooted in policy, operational cost, and economic consequences that will inevitably face virtually every local government agency and community should this measure be signed into law.

Public employers are dealing with record revenue losses while also trying to support the highest demand on services in recent memory. AB 685 will result in a flood of ongoing reporting requirements for public employers who, even with the best intent, will be subject to hundreds of thousands in potential violations due to the complexities of the proposed reporting system, the ambiguous definitions and low trigger thresholds for reporting.

Local agencies are required by law to balance their budgets, leaving essential services on the chopping block. This may mean fewer firefighters and police officers to answer emergency calls and limited opening hours for parks and senior centers. AB 685 adds to this burden by creating a \$10,000.00 per violation fine for failure to comply with even one step of this reporting process within 24 hours. With ambiguous and undefined terms, it is likely that most local agencies will be subjected to countless fines — even when making a good faith effort to fully comply and keep their employees safe.

For these reasons, the City of Oceanside opposes AB 685 (Reyes).

Sincerely,


Peter Weiss
MAYOR

Cc: The Honorable Eloise Reyes
Assemblymember Tasha Boerner Horvath
Senator Patricia Bates
Catherine Hill, League of CA Cities
League of California Cities, cityletters@cacities.org