



July 5, 2022

The Honorable Tom Umberg  
California State Assembly, 34<sup>th</sup> District  
1021 O Street, Suite 6730  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SUPPORT SB 1338 (Umberg) – Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court Program**

Dear Senator Umberg,

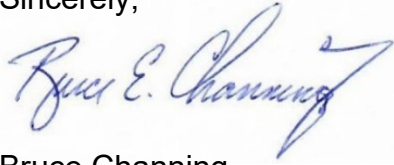
The Association of California Cities – Orange County (ACC-OC) represents the regional policy needs of most Orange County cities and special districts. Collectively, our members provide services to up to 3.2 million people and work across county borders on a multitude of public policy issues.

ACC-OC is pleased to inform you that we support SB 1338 in concept as an important tool to help communities address the growing crises of homelessness, mental health, and substance abuse. This bill would create a civil court system dedicated to managing individuals with serious mental health conditions and substance use disorders leading to homelessness or incarceration. As an interim solution to conservatorship, this program offers a new way for local agencies to connect individuals with effective treatment in a respectful and efficient manner.

As discussions continue on this bill, ACC-OC would like to encourage a greater consideration of due process for program participants as well as ensuring that a full understanding of the financial impacts of the program is developed. It is critical that counties receive full funding for this program without having to divert funds from other valuable programs. Lastly, where possible, ACC-OC encourages collaboration amongst existing agencies rather than forming new and potentially duplicative bureaucratic structures.

Should you have any questions about our position on SB 1338 or about ACC-OC, please contact Wendy Strack, ACC-OC Director of Legislative Affairs, at (951) 712-3173 or at [wendy@wjsconsult.com](mailto:wendy@wjsconsult.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bruce E. Channing". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "B" and a long, sweeping tail.

Bruce Channing

Executive Director

Association of California Cities – Orange County

CC: ACC-OC Board of Directors