Company Letterhead

March 9, 2018

The Honorable Marie Waldron

Assembly Member

State Capitol, Room 4130

Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 2804 (Waldron): Support

Dear Assemblywoman Waldron,

On behalf of insert organization name and the clients we serve, we would like to convey our support of Assembly Bill 2804. there are an estimated 3.5 million persons with diagnosable substance use disorders in California, yet there are less than 20,000 substance use disorder treatment counselors currently certified by private credentialing bodies in California. California employs fewer SUD counselors per population than the national average.

There can be no increase in access to addiction treatment in California without a corresponding increase in the number of competently trained professionals to deliver it. Californians willing and ready to enter treatment die while waiting for openings at treatment programs. Currently 41% of the substance use disorder treatment workforce is identified as “registered” (have not met testing and education requirements). Employers cannot fill staff vacancies to meet demand for services, while low wages and high turnover created by the lack of a career ladder and disjointed professional standards plague the addiction treatment job market.

Your AB 2804 will create planning for a 21st Century substance use disorder workforce to address the opioid crisis. Our programs, clients, and the communities we are dedicated to serving thank you for carrying this important legislation.

Assembly Bill 2804 has our full support.

Sincerely,

Insert name

Insert title

*cc: Assembly members: Wood (Chair), Maienschein (Vice Chair), Aguiar-Curry, Bonta, Burke, Carrillo, Flora, Limón, McCarty, Nazarian, Rodriguez, Santiago, Steinorth, and Thurmon.*