



**COUNTY OF
SAN BERNARDINO**

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March 27, 2007

The Honorable Robert Dutton
31st Senate District
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 708 (Dutton)– As Introduced February 23, 2007 - **SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Dutton:

The Board of Supervisors of San Bernardino County supports SB 708, which would provide that no group home serving six or fewer mentally disordered or otherwise handicapped persons or dependent and neglected children may be licensed as such unless the city in which the group home is located issues a conditional use permit to the owner of the group home.

As you know, local governments currently have the ability to control the location of residential care facilities licensed for seven or more residents, since such facilities are subject to local use permits and zoning regulations. However, state law generally treats facilities licensed for six or fewer residents as single-family homes for zoning purposes, which means that cities and counties cannot regulate their placement.

Many communities in San Bernardino County have received more than their fair share of group homes, and under current law, these communities have no power to deny or regulate the group homes opening in their neighborhoods. The proliferation of these homes creates an excessive burden for neighborhood residents due to additional traffic, noise or other impacts that are not typically found in a traditional single-family neighborhood. In addition, these facilities often create a burden for local government because these facilities frequently require a higher level of services than single-family homes.

Requiring these group homes to receive a conditional use permit would permit counties and cities to regulate their placement and to provide a safe environment for all their citizens. For these reasons, the Board of Supervisors of San Bernardino County is in support of SB 708.

Sincerely,

PAUL BIANE
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

The mission of the government of the County of San Bernardino is to satisfy its customers by providing service that promotes the health, safety, well being, and quality of life of its residents according to the County Charter, general laws, and the will of the people it serves.