

March 22, 2022

The Honorable Richard Pan
Chair, Senate Health Committee
1021 "O" Street – Room 3310
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: SENATE BILL (SB) 1475 (SUPPORT)

Dear Senator Pan:

On behalf of the City of La Quinta, we are pleased to offer this letter of support for Senate Bill (SB) 1475, to authorize a registered nurse (RN) placed in charge of a blood collection to be physically present or available by telehealth. This change reflects lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic, including infections among blood bank staffing, by providing the option to have nurse availability by telehealth, as needed, in order to ensure ongoing access to a tenuous blood supply by patients in urgent need of blood transfusions.

The use of such telehealth was adopted in 2020 by blood centers in California during the pandemic and at times has been instrumental in allowing blood collection organizations in California to conduct whole blood donations, platelet collections, and COVID-19 convalescent plasma collections to meet transfusion needs during the pandemic. La Quinta is home for one of LifeStream Blood Bank's Donor Centers, and our residents are actively involved in donating blood to help our local hospitals. Our schools are also 25% of the donor base in our community, and it's vital to ensure blood drives continue, especially post-pandemic, to keep the shelves filled with needed blood. Having the flexibility of an on-site or telehealth RN maximizes the ability to continue to procure needed donations to help save lives.

Presently, California is the only state that requires the physical presence of an RN at each blood drive and blood bank. SB 1475 provides an important nursing telehealth option to provide blood drives/banks the ability to optimize the management and care of both healthy blood donors and patients with unique needs.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge your "YES" on SB 1475. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me through email at levans@laquintaca.gov or at 760-777-7030. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Linda Evans, Mayor
City of La Quinta, Riverside County

cc: Honorable Steve Glazer