

**BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS**

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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA****DAS WILLIAMS**

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June 15, 2020

The Honorable Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson
California State Senate
Capitol, Room 2032
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1207 (Jackson) - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Jackson:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to state our support for SB 1207 (Jackson), which would require skilled nursing facilities to maintain backup power for no less than 96 hours during any type of power outage in alignment with the federal standards.

California's baby boomers are turning 65 years of age at the highest rate in the nation. California's age 65 and older population currently stands at 5.5 million, and is projected to grow to over 8 million by 2030. Among persons 65 years of age or older, an estimated 70% will use long-term services and supports. Additionally, the projected average life expectancy has increased to over 81 years for women and over 76 years for men.

Currently, State regulations only require nursing facilities to provide very limited backup power for up to 6 hours. This standard is a recipe for disaster in California's current era of extreme weather, wildfires and power outages.

The Board of Supervisors adopted a 2020 Legislative Platform, which includes the Health and Human Services Legislative Principle that states the County will support efforts to maintain and enhance services that protect the most vulnerable within a community, including the elderly, as well as the Efficient Service Delivery and Operations Principle that states the County will support efforts to promote operational enhancements relevant to County departments' missions and core services, including disaster prevention & response.

For these reasons, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors is pleased to support SB 1207 (Jackson). If you have questions about the Board's position, please contact the

County's Legislative Coordinator, Nancy Anderson at 805-568-3403 or
NAnderson@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,



Cliff Berg

Governmental Advocates, Inc.

cc: The Honorable Assemblymember Monique Limon, 37th Assembly District
The Honorable Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham, 35th Assembly District
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Nancy Anderson, Legislative Coordinator, County of Santa Barbara Board of
Supervisors