



Senate Bill 31 Fact Sheet – Compassionately Clearing Homeless Encampments

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SUMMARY

SB 31 prohibits homeless encampments near the sensitive community areas of schools, parks, libraries, and daycare centers. This bill balances accountability with compassion by implementing a 72-hour warning before an encampment is cleared, and requires enforcement officers to provide information about sleeping alternatives, homeless and mental health services, and/or homeless shelters in the area.

BACKGROUND

California [leads the nation](#) with the most chronically homeless individuals. Estimates indicate that homelessness in California increased by at least [22,500](#) individuals over the past three years, to a total of 173,800 people. For example, in San Diego County, the number of homeless shot up [10%](#) in the last year alone, with over half of the estimated 8,427 homeless people living on the streets. Similar trends are seen across the state with the a [17%](#) increase in tents, vehicles, and makeshift shelters on Los Angeles County streets and the homeless population skyrocketing nearly [70%](#) in Sacramento.

Californians are becoming increasingly concerned with the state's growing homeless population as they notice the homelessness encampments increase across the state. In fact, [60%](#) of Californian adults say the presence of homeless people has increased over the past year and almost [70%](#) of Californian adults see it as a big problem.

Residents are [concerned](#) about dangerous encampments, crime, and quality of life degrading in their neighborhoods because of the homelessness crisis. Parents are [worried](#) about their family's safety with encampments steps away from schools, playgrounds, and areas where children often congregate.

PROBLEM

To address increasing homelessness and residents' concerns, some local governments have acted. The City of Los Angeles recently passed a [measure](#) aimed at banning homeless encampments near certain schools, parks, libraries, and daycare centers. Similarly, the City of Sacramento recently passed [measures](#) to ban homeless

encampments within 500 feet of schools, childcare centers, colleges, hospitals, and levees.

These measures have strong support from residents in local jurisdictions. However, these additional tools to compassionately clear encampments are not available to all local jurisdictions statewide.

SOLUTION

SB 31 will help compassionately clear encampments and help improve public safety and public health. Specifically, this bill will:

1. Prohibit encampments near the sensitive community areas of schools, parks, libraries, and daycare centers. This will help protect our most vulnerable population, our children;
2. Require a 72-hour warning before an encampment is cleared. This will give homeless individuals a chance to find alternatives and accept services before their encampment is cleared; and
3. Require enforcement officers to provide information about sleeping alternatives, homeless and mental health services, and/or homeless shelters in the area. This will help connect homeless individuals to desperately needed services as encampments are compassionately cleared.

SB 31 strikes an appropriate balance between accountability and compassion while tackling the homelessness crisis and putting public health and public safety as the top priority.

SUPPORT

San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer, Ret.
San Diego County Supervisor Jim Desmond
El Cajon Police Chief Mike Moulton
Escondido City Councilmember Joe Garcia
East County Transition Living Center
Alpha Project

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