



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE • BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

Lili Bosse, Mayor

September 13, 2022

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB-1751 (Daly) Workers' compensation: COVID-19: critical workers.
City of Beverly Hills – REQUEST FOR VETO

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I respectfully request your **VETO** on **AB 1751 (Daly)**. This bill would extend the sunset date on the existing workers' compensation presumptions for COVID-19 as initially enacted by Senate Bill 1159 (Hill, 2020) from January 1, 2023, to January 1, 2024. AB 1751 continues to place the burden on California employers to prove specified employees did not contract COVID-19 at the workplace when Stay At Home orders no longer exist at the local, regional, or state level making it more likely an employee is exposed at some other location besides their workplace.

Early in the pandemic, California chose to implement a COVID-19 presumption to ensure employees would have access to the workers' compensation system in the event of being infected with COVID-19. The City of Beverly Hills opposed this worker's compensation presumption as COVID-19 is a community spread virus. Due to how individuals interact publicly, there was no reason to presume that employment posed a heightened risk or that such presumption was and continues to be needed.

According to an ongoing analysis from the California Workers' Compensation Institute, California employers have received over 250,000 workers' compensation claims for COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic. Health care providers and taxpayer-funded public agencies have been especially hard hit, accounting for over 50 percent of all claims and over 60 percent of the accepted claims. Data collected on this information suggests that employers have accepted most of these claims and provided benefits.

Our City believes the COVID-19 presumption should be allowed to sunset as agreed upon in SB 1159, as California is no longer sheltering in place and the workplace does not represent a unique risk in most situations. Additionally, when SB 1159 was enacted, vaccinations were not accessible to individuals as they are now. **AB 1751** fails to protect employers from individuals that may choose to not be vaccinated, which pose a risk of outbreaks in the workplace.

Furthermore, there are effective treatments that have been developed which results in better outcomes for most individuals who do become infected with COVID-19.

For these reasons, the City of Beverly Hills requests your **VETO on AB 1751 (Daly)**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lili Bosse". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lili Bosse
Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

Cc: The Honorable Tom Daly, Assemblymember 69th District
The Honorable Ben Allen, Senator 26th District
The Honorable Richard Bloom, Assemblymember, 50th District
Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange