



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE • BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

John A. Mirisch, Mayor

September 25, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, Governor's Office
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 542 (Stern) Workers' compensation.
City of Beverly Hills – Request for Veto

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I write to you to respectfully request you **VETO SB 542 (Stern)** when it comes before your desk. This bill would create a new presumption of industrial causation for all mental health conditions or mental disabilities that result in a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), or mental health disorder that develops or manifests itself during a period when a firefighter or peace officer is in services of the department.

The City of Beverly Hills acknowledges that California's police officers and firefighters work in some of the most difficult circumstances imaginable and that the situations they encounter and the duties they perform can have negative impacts on their mental health. However, the City does not believe **SB 542 (Stern)** is necessary to ensure that public safety officers, or any other California employee, have fair access to the workers' compensation system for psychiatric injuries.

The state's current workers' compensation system strikes the appropriate balance with respect to psychiatric injuries. California's workers' compensation system is studied thoroughly on an annual basis, and yet there is no evidence that the workers' compensation system is treating PTSD claims unfairly. The Department of Industrial Relations did an "Issue Brief" in 2018 and despite being asked specifically about denial rates for these types of claims, no data was reported that would indicate that public safety officer PTSD claims are being inappropriately denied.

Without evidence that a problem exists, or an analysis of the potential costs to local entities, this legislation is not only unnecessary, but also poses significant potential costs to local governments.

For these reasons, the City of Beverly Hills must respectfully **OPPOSE SB 542 (Stern)**. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John A. Mirisch', with a stylized, cursive script.

John A. Mirisch
Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

cc: The Honorable Henry Stern, 27th District
The Honorable Ben Allen, 26th Senate District
The Honorable Richard Bloom, 50th Assembly District
Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw / Yoder / Antwih, Inc.