

BOARD OF  
SUPERVISORS

County Administration  
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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

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September 11, 2020

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

**RE: SB 1207 (Jackson) Skilled Nursing Facilities: Backup Power System – Request for Signature**

Dear Governor Newsom:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to respectfully request your signature on SB 1207 (Jackson), which requires skilled nursing facilities to have an alternative source of power to protect resident health and safety for no less than 96 hours during any type of power outage that complies with specified federal requirements.

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 and response.

For these reasons, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests your signature on 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](mailto:NAnderson@countyofsb.org).

Sincerely,



Cliff Berg

*Governmental Advocates, Inc.*

cc: Tam Ma, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom  
The Honorable Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, 19<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
The Honorable Assemblymember Monique Limon, 37<sup>th</sup> 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