



City of Glendora
116 E. Foothill Blvd.
Glendora, CA 91741

April 14, 2025

The Honorable Maria Elena Durazo
Chair, Senate Local Government Committee
California State Capitol, Room 407
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 634 (Pérez) Homelessness: civil and criminal penalties

Notice of OPPOSITION *(As Amended 03/26/25)*

Dear Senator Durazo,

The City of Glendora must respectfully **oppose SB 634 (Pérez)**, which would prohibit local jurisdictions from adopting or enforcing ordinances to address homelessness. While we recognize the bill's intent, SB 634 would severely limit cities' ability to respond to the growing homelessness crisis in communities across California.

Cities are implementing balanced approaches that protect both the rights of individuals experiencing homelessness and the broader community's needs for clean, safe, and accessible public spaces. SB 634 hinders this progress by prohibiting local governments from adopting any regulation, policy, or guidance that imposes civil or criminal penalties on a person experiencing homelessness. By eliminating all enforcement mechanisms, SB 634 gives people the right to stand, sit, lay, sleep, or put up a tent in any public place.

The City of Glendora invests millions of dollars each year to address homelessness through comprehensive and balanced programs. These efforts integrate critical services, immediate emergency and interim housing solutions, and strategically placed permanent supportive housing, coupled with thoughtful and progressive enforcement measures.

Situated at the foothills, significant areas within Glendora are identified as high fire hazard zones, underscoring the importance of enforcing anti-camping ordinances and





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actively promoting housing and support services as vital components of citywide public safety strategies.

Quality of life and community wellbeing across our city must not be compromised. California has already experienced the significant loss of tens of thousands of affordable housing units following the dissolution of Redevelopment Agencies. The State must avoid exacerbating this housing crisis by enacting policies that disproportionately benefit certain groups to the detriment of millions of Californians.

Cities have been sued by business owners for allowing encampments to block access to businesses and by disability rights advocates over encampments that have obstructed sidewalks and public spaces. Without the ability to use civil or criminal enforcement remedies, cities would face increased legal liability and more importantly, have no meaningful way to respond to urgent health and safety concerns. The City of Glendora recognizes that we must remain focused on connecting unhoused residents to housing and services, but cities also need basic tools to meet their legal obligations and protect public spaces.

SB 634 also directly contradicts cities' efforts to address encampments in response to the Governor's November 2024 [executive order](#). The order directed state departments and agencies to adopt policies to address homeless encampments on state properties and encouraged local governments to adopt similar policies or risk losing access to state homelessness funding. Cities want to help the state to realize our shared vision of reducing homelessness and supporting our most vulnerable residents. However, SB 634 leaves cities without any enforcement tools, hindering cities' ability to carry out the Governor's directive and jeopardizing state funding cities receive to address homelessness.

Local jurisdictions are already working within a complex and evolving legal landscape, including recent federal court decisions like *Johnson v. Grants Pass*, which clarified constitutional limits on how cities can address homelessness through enforcement actions. In response to the Grants Pass ruling, the Governor stated:

*"Today's ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court provides state and local officials the **definitive authority** to implement and **enforce** policies to clear unsafe encampments from our streets. This decision removes the **legal ambiguities** that have **tied the hands** of local*





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*officials for years and **limited their ability** to deliver on common-sense measures to protect the safety and well-being of our communities."*

SB 634 directly undermines this decision by stripping local governments of the authority to tailor enforcement strategies to their unique circumstances. It also disregards the years of legal effort cities have invested to gain the clarity now provided by the Court.

The City of Glendora urges the Legislature to support policies that empower local governments to act with compassion and urgency — not tie their hands behind their backs. SB 634 does not reflect the nuanced, community-led solutions that are showing promise across the state. For these reasons, the City of Glendora must **oppose SB 634 (Pérez)**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Fredendall".

David Fredendall
Mayor
City of Glendora

cc. Sasha Renne Perez & Blanca Rubio
Jennifer Quan, jquan@calcities.org
League of California Cities, cityletters@cacities.org

