

TO: Honorable Lola Smallwood-Cuevas, Chair
Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee
Members, Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee

FROM: Norwood Associates, LLC

DATE: March 28, 2025

RE: SB 581(McGuire)--SUPPORT

On behalf of our client, Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of California (IIABCal) we are writing to offer our Support for the above referenced bill.

California and the Western United States are experiencing unprecedented wildfire destruction. Over the past five years, eight of the most devastating wildfires in California's history have occurred, with two of the deadliest blazes destroying over 16,000 structures in Los Angeles County just two weeks after Christmas. Despite the state's significant investments in CAL FIRE, which have doubled the number of firefighters in the past eight years, additional support is crucial.

The state now faces an escalating wildfire crisis characterized by fires that burn longer, hotter, faster, and more frequently than ever before. This new reality has fundamentally transformed firefighting challenges, stretching emergency resources to their limits and creating heightened risks for both firefighters and local communities. California cannot simply suppress or insure its way out of this crisis.

Senate Bill 581 represents a strategic approach, proposing to leverage the existing, trained CAL FIRE workforce to undertake critical preventative work and protect vulnerable communities from wildfire risks. The goal is to restore a competitive market for homeowners and property insurance by proactively addressing potential fire dangers.

For the above stated reason, IIABCal would urge your "AYE" vote on SB 581. Thank you

Thank you.

cc: Chris Nielsen, Office of Pro Tem Mike McGuire
Jano Dekermenjian, Office of Pro Tem Mike McGuire
Alma Perez, Chief Consultant, Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee
Cory Botts, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Brady Borcharding, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor