May 25, 2023

Assemblymember Phillip Ting
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8230
Sacramento, California, 95814

Senator Nancy Skinner
Chair, Senate Budget Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8630
Sacramento, California, 95814

RE: Finding a Permanent Home in the State Budget for Homelessness Programs and Affordable Housing

Dear Chairs Ting and Skinner,

In the spirit of a strong state and local government partnership that benefits all Californians, we the undersigned Members respectfully ask for your consideration for a permanent funding stream of $3 billion annually for cities to help Californians find homes and prevent more Californians from having to live on the streets, under bridges, or in their cars.

A recent statewide survey by the League of California Cities underscores why this funding is so essential to helping cities serve those experiencing homelessness in their communities. According to the survey results, 84% of cities have implemented various programs aimed at addressing homelessness. Nearly 90% of cities have fiscal concerns over providing existing homelessness services long term. Alarmingly, 1 in 4 cities reported having to divert funding from unrelated city programs to support homelessness programs and services. Despite the concerted efforts of local governments, the number of individuals entering homelessness continues to surpass the capacity of these initiatives to effectively support individuals transitioning out of homelessness.

One-time funding inhibits cities’ long-term planning efforts and stifles more ambitious statewide goals. An ongoing investment of $3 billion from the state would have transformative effects, generating crucial housing production and providing vital support to thousands of Californians currently experiencing homelessness. Most significantly, such funding would play a pivotal role in preventing thousands more individuals from losing their homes in the first place. By replacing the outdated patchwork funding approach with a dedicated commitment to ongoing state funding, cities across California can establish an accountable oversight system for implementing effective homelessness programs.

With the slowing economy, stubbornly high inflation, and the threat of another potential recession, we know that more of our residents could lose their homes and join the growing ranks of the unhoused. Together, we affirm that all Californians deserve a place to live.
The collaboration of all levels of government is of utmost importance to advancing the shared state and local goals of addressing homelessness, ultimately leading to the creation of robust and prosperous communities that benefit all Californians. I look forward to working with you and the League of California Cities to realize a strengthened partnership that will significantly improve the quality of life for all residents of California.

Sincerely,

Sharon Quirk-Silva
Assemblywoman, 67th District

Buffy Wicks
Assemblymember, 14th District

Bill Dodd
Senator, 3rd District

Corey A. Jackson
Assemblymember, 60th District

Heath Flora
Assemblymember, 9th District

Juan Alanis
Assemblymember, 22nd District

Tasha Boerner
Assemblymember, 77th District

Lori D. Wilson
Assemblywoman, 11th District

John Laird
Senator, 17th District

Catherine Blakespear
Senator, 38th District
MIKE A. GIPSON  
Assemblymember, 65th District

LAURIE DAVIES  
Assemblywoman, 74th District

PILAR SCHIAVO  
Assemblywoman, 40th District

DAWN ADDIS  
Assemblymember, 30th District

LENA A. GONZELEZ  
Senator, 33rd District

SUSAN RUBIO  
Senator, 22nd District

JANET NGUYEN  
Senator, 36th District

SCOTT WILK  
Senator, 21st District

MARC BERMAN  
Assemblymember, 23rd District

THOMAS J. UMBERG  
SENATOR, 34th District

ROSILICIE OCHOA BOGH  
Senator, 23rd District

BLANCA PACHECO  
Assemblywoman, 64th District

TRI TA  
Assemblymember, 70th District

BOB ARCHULETA  
Senator, 30th District

BLANCA E. RUBIO  
Assemblywoman, 48th District

STEVEN BRADFORD  
Senator, 35th District