



California-México Studies Center, Inc.

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The Honorable Kevin de León
Senate President pro Tempore, 24th District
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

February 13, 2016

Re: State Senate Homelessness Proposal

Dear Senate President De León,

The California-Mexico Studies Center is in full support of the California Senate proposal to increase affordable housing opportunities for the homeless, especially the chronically homeless with mental illness and those most marginalized in our society: Latino immigrants.

Homelessness is a tragedy witnessed daily throughout California where more homeless people live than anywhere else in the nation. Most, if not all, California communities have experienced the negative affects homelessness can have on businesses, government resources, community safety and wellbeing, and neighborhood quality of life.

Increasing housing for the homeless is not only the compassionate thing to do but also fiscally prudent. The chronically homeless places the greatest strain on public resources in health, public safety, and social service costs.

The Senate proposal seeks to assist local governments fight homelessness with \$2 billion for permanent housing for those with mental illness and \$200 million over four years for temporary rent subsidies.

The Senate's effort to spur development of affordable housing, coupled with other elements in its proposal to support successful programs that prevent homelessness or shelter vulnerable families and individuals, will surely help our state better cope with the tragedy of homelessness.

For these reasons, the CMSC strongly supports the Senate proposal on homelessness.

Sincerely,

Prof. Armando Vazquez-Ramos, CMSC President & CEO