



Council of Mexican Federations

Educating today's Latino Families to be tomorrow's leaders

Affiliated Federations

Allianza de Clubes
Yucatecos USA

Federaciones de Clubes
de Colima

Federación Duranguense
USA
www.casadurangousa.org

Federación de Guanajuato
www.fgto.org

Federación de Hidalguenses
en California

Federación de Jalisco
del Norte
www.federacionjalisco.org

Federación de Clubes y
Asociaciones de Michoacán

Instituto Oaxaca
www.inoaxaca.org

Unión de Poblanos en
el Exterior
www.upext.org

Fraternidad Sinaloense
de California
www.fraternidadsinaloense.org

Federación de Nayaritas
en Estados Unidos

ANÁHUAK Youth
Soccer Association
www.anahuakyouthsoccer.org

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2/22/2016

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

Re: State Senate Homelessness Proposal

Dear Senate President De León,

On behalf of Council of Mexican Federations (COFEM), I am writing to express our support of the California Senate proposal to increase affordable housing opportunities for the homeless, especially the chronically homeless with mental illness.

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. 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.

COFEM has hear from families about the need to address the homeless situation specially in the city of Los Angeles, and we have been encouraged by our members to seek support from elected officials to address this issues. COFEM applauds Senator President De Leon for taking the lead in providing resources and support for the Homeless population of the state. For these reasons, COFEM strongly supports the senate Proposal on homelessness.

COFEM is the largest Mexican membership organization in California representing over 300 Mexican Hometown Associations throughout the state. COFEM's mission is to promote the advancement of the Latino community in North America through public policy advocacy, community organizing, leadership and organizational development, educational and cultural programs, and bi-national economic development.

Sincerely,

Anabella Bastida
Executive Director