



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

February 20, 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,

The Weingart East Los Angeles YMCA is in full 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.

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 Weingart East Los Angeles YMCA strongly supports the Senate proposal on homelessness.

Sincerely,

Samuel Robles  
Executive Director



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