

Date: 2/18/2016

The Honorable Kevin de Leon
Senate President pro Tempore. 24th District
State Capitol, Room 205

Re: State Senate Homeless Proposal

Dear Senate President De Leon,

Garfield Healthy Start in East Los Angeles 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 effects homelessness can have on businesses, government resources, community safety and wellbeing and neighbor 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 services cost.

The senate proposal seeks local governments fight homeless 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 or state better cope with the tragedy of homelessness.

For these reasons, I Blanca Espinoza Healthy Start Coordinator in the county of Los Angeles strongly supports the Senate proposal on homelessness.

Sincerely,

Blanca Espinoza