



February 24, 2016

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

RE: Senate No Place Like Home Proposal- Support in Concept

Senate President de León:

The Los Angeles County of Division of the League of California Cities®, representing 86 cities in the county, supports the concepts of the California Senate proposal to increase affordable housing opportunities for 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.

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority reports that the County's homeless population has increased 12.4 percent in one year to 44, 359 individuals. Close to 29,000 of that population is unsheltered. Increasing housing for homeless is not only the compassionate thing to do but is 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.

Again, the Division supports the concepts of the No Place Like Home proposal and we look forward to seeing further details as the legislative session moves forward.

Sincerely,

Carol Chen
President
Los Angeles County Division
League of California Cities

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CC: Craig Cornett, Budget Director, Office of the President Pro Tem
Kendra Harris, League of California Cities

Please note: As part of its expanded advocacy program, the Los Angeles County Division of the League of California Cities is now tracking votes of Los Angeles area Legislators and will issue a report at the conclusion of the legislative session to all its member cities regarding the consistency of legislators' votes with the positions of the Los Angeles County Division of the League of California Cities.