



THE SALVADORAN-AMERICAN
LEADERSHIP AND EDUCATIONAL FUND

FONDO SALVADOREÑO-AMERICANO
PARA EL LIDERAZGO Y LA EDUCACIÓN

February 10, 2016

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The Honorable Kevin De Leon
Senate President pro Tempore, 24th District
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: State Senate Homelessness Proposal

Dear Senate President De León,

On behalf of the Salvadoran American leadership and Educational Fund (SALEF), I am writing to express our full support for the California Senate proposal to increase affordable housing opportunities for the homeless, especially the chronically homeless with mental illness.

SALEF's mission is to advocate for the educational advancement, civic participation, leadership and economic prosperity of Salvadoran and other Latino communities in the U.S.; and to advance democracy and social justice in the U.S. and El Salvador.

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, SALEF strongly supports the Senate proposal on homelessness. Should you have any questions, please call me at (213) 480-1052.

Sincerely,

Carlos Antonio H. Vaquerano
Executive Director