



February 17, 2016

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

RE: State Senate Homelessness Proposal

Dear Senate President De Leon,

As Executive Director of Legacy LA, a youth development organization serving very low income families, I am in full support of the California Senate proposal to increase affordable housing opportunities for the homeless, especially chronically homeless population that suffer from mental illness.

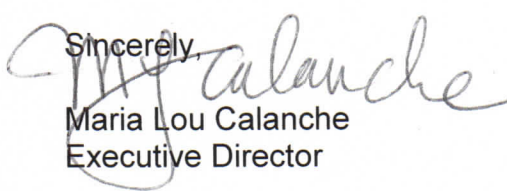
In California, homelessness is a devastating social issue that witnessed daily. California has more homeless people living in the State than anywhere else in the nation. Most, if not all, California communities have experienced the negative impacts homelessness has on business, government resources, community safety and wellbeing, and neighborhood quality of life.

Increasing housing for the homeless is not only compassionate but also fiscally prudent. The chronically homeless places face great strains on their public health resources, 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 efforts 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 out State better address and remedy this tragic issue.

For these reasons I strongly support the Senate proposal on homelessness. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Maria Lou Calanche
Executive Director