[ON YOUR LETTERHEAD]

Assemblymember David Chiu

State Capitol

Sacramento, CA 95814

Attention: Lisa Engel

Lisa.Engel@asm.ca.gov

 Re: Support for AB 2161 (Chiu), Homeless Integrated Data Warehouse

Dear Assemblymember Chiu:

On behalf of [NAME OF YOUR ORGANIZATION], I am writing in support of AB 2161, Homeless Integrated Data Warehouse. [ONE OR TWO SENTENCES ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION]

California is facing a crisis of housing scarcity and increasing homelessness. However, the data tracking services provided to people experiencing homelessness are siloed within separate departments and jurisdictions. As a result, it is not currently possible to perform detailed analysis on a statewide level of the service needs and usage of homeless and at-risk Californians. Both the cost of serving this population and the full cost of failing to serve them are thus invisible to the state’s decision makers and service providers.

AB 2161 will direct the Department of Housing and Community Development to create an integrated data warehouse to combine and reconcile data from the state’s 43 homeless management information systems (HMISes). It will also direct the Department to collaborate with other relevant state agencies—such as the Departments of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Health Care Services, and Social Services—to add their data to the warehouse. Once these data sets have been matched and reconciled, the new data warehouse will make it possible to conduct high-quality analysis of the service use, needs, and costs of Californians experiencing homelessness. This analysis will build a comprehensive understanding of barriers and opportunities for ending homelessness. It will clarify what is currently working, what needs to be fixed, the full investment necessary to end chronic homelessness, and the true cost of doing nothing.

For these reasons, we strongly support this important legislation, and appreciate your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

[YOUR NAME]

[YOUR TITLE]

cc: Andy Perry, Corporation for Supportive Housing

Tyrone Buckley, Housing California