March 16, 2020

Assemblymember David Chiu
Chair, Assembly Committee on Housing & Community Development
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814
Lisa.Engel@asm.ca.gov

Re: Support letter for Assembly Bill 2329 (Chiu)

Dear Chairman Chiu—

On behalf of [YOUR ORGANIZATION], I am writing in support of Assembly Bill 2329 (Chiu). [ONE TO TWO SENTENCES ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION]

In our daily work, we see the dire consequences of homelessness. People experiencing homelessness have higher rates of early mortality, hospitalization, incarceration, nursing home placement, emergency department use, disease infection, and child-welfare involvement than their housed counterparts. Some repeat a cycle of institutionalization and homelessness.

We know how to solve homelessness, but we need data to help us make our state resources more effective. Communities across California have been performing gaps or needs analyses to steer resources in a more targeted way. The State should follow these local examples. A needs analysis identifies—

- What is needed in terms of supportive housing, rapid re-housing, affordable housing, services, and shelters, based on data;
- What exists in terms of supportive housing, rapid re-housing, affordable housing, services, and shelters;
- The gap between what is needed and what exists; and
- A financial model for filling the gap.

Assembly Bill 2329 (Chiu) will require the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council to perform a needs/gaps analysis for the State of California. This analysis will inform the State how to invest to achieve significant reductions in homelessness statewide. These data will be critical to informing the Governor and Legislature on how to spend State dollars more effectively and help the State and our local partners set realistic outcomes and benchmarks. It also minimizes the costs of an analysis by extrapolating data, largely from existing sources, while also taking into account the geographically diverse nature of our state.

AB 2329 will allow the Administration and Legislature will be able to better prioritize and fund specific interventions, making State resources more responsive to urgent need. Thank you for your ongoing leadership on the critical issue of homelessness.

Sincerely,

[YOUR NAME]
[YOUR TITLE]