



May 28, 2020

Assemblymember David Chiu  
Chair, Assembly Committee on Housing & Community Development  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Attention: Lisa Engel

Re: Support letter for Assembly Bill 3269 (Chiu)

Dear Assemblymember Chiu:

On behalf of the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) and Housing California, we are writing in support of AB 3269 (Chiu), which sets a path toward reducing homelessness over the next eight years. CSH and Housing California are both non-profit organizations working to end homelessness in California.

California leads the nation in many troubling ways: we are home to the largest population of Americans experiencing homelessness, 40% of the nation's chronically homeless population, double the number of any other state of youth experiencing homelessness, 56% of the nation's unsheltered homeless are in California, and home to one of the highest rates of homelessness in the country. At a time when we are certain to face potential increases in the number of people experiencing homelessness, we must take actions to facilitate exits from homelessness to permanent housing. As a result, Californians routinely identify homelessness and housing as the two top issues facing our State. To address the magnitude of the challenge we face, the state must both assist local jurisdictions to take responsible action toward solving homelessness, as well as hold local jurisdictions accountable for local policy failures that block housing projects, prevent people experiencing homelessness from accessing housing or shelter, or for refusing to take steps to advance evidence-based interventions, and ensure both the State and local jurisdictions are coordinating housing and services resources efficiently towards ending people's experiences of homelessness.

AB 3269 sets clear goals and metrics to hold local jurisdictions accountable for achieving results. Without punishing jurisdictions unable to stem homelessness in the economic times ahead, it recognizes solving homelessness takes partnership between the state and local jurisdictions. It ensures both the state and our communities are rowing in the same direction toward proven interventions in solving homelessness. Combined with state investment, holding local jurisdictions accountable is essential to success in reducing homelessness, as it would require local jurisdictions to prioritize evidence-based interventions and overcoming stigma around homelessness.

We appreciate your strong leadership in this important bill that will move the State in a meaningful direction towards ending homelessness. For these reasons, Housing California and CSH are proud to support AB 3269.

Sincerely,



Sharon Rapport  
Director, California State Policy



Chris Martin  
Housing California