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REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE



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California community land trust network



California Housing Partnership



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DOWNTOWN WOMEN'S CENTER



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Episcopal Community Services San Francisco



EVICION DEFENSE COLLABORATIVE



Friends Committee on Legislation of California



Homebase
ADVANCING SOLUTIONS TO HOMELESSNESS



HOUSING CALIFORNIA

HERA
housing and economic rights advocates



Resolving Homelessness Together



JOHN BURTON Advocates for Youth





May 22, 2026

The Honorable Jesse Arreguin, Chair
 Senate Committee on Housing
 1021 O Street, Suite 3330
 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT OF CALIFORNIA HOUSING JUSTICE ACT--AB 1165

Dear Chair Arreguin:

We are writing in strong support of AB 1165, the California Housing Justice Act, which would require the State of California to create a financing plan to address housing insecurity and homelessness in California.

Housing unaffordability impacts all of us and is the leading driver of homelessness in California. About 1 million households—80% with extremely low-incomes, including all making minimum wage working full-time—pay well over one-third of their incomes on rent. These households must choose between rent, food, healthcare, transportation, and other necessary costs. Thousands are becoming unhoused every day. Over the course of one year, over 350,000 people experience homelessness.

Thanks to investment, California is making progress. Early in his first term, Governor Newsom declared a need to create 1 million new homes to meet the challenge of housing unaffordability. As the Governor reported in his most recent State of the State, establishing this goal led to the development of more housing during his Administration than in any other prior year. Whereas California was previously driving homelessness increases, the number of people living unhoused has flattened at a time when homelessness nationally increased sharply and the latest data shows California is actually turning a corner to decrease homelessness. And unsheltered homelessness has decreased significantly, all due to California's investments.

Despite this progress, California still has a long way to go. Our state currently invests less than 0.5% in affordable housing and homelessness programs, and very few resources are ongoing. When the state does invest, investment is not according to a plan or roadmap. AB 1165 will help the state align investments with a comprehensive plan to deliver housing security to Californians. While AB 1165 does not require investment, it requires our housing agency to plan to develop—

- **A strategic roadmap** to end homelessness and California's housing affordability crisis, informed by research and data on what works, to ensure state investments have the most powerful effect,
- **Direction on investing future funding** focused on long-term solutions that bring people home and keep people stably housed, and
- **Accountability and transparency measures** that keep local governments accountable to state oversight, state planning transparent to public review, and our systems informed and shaped by people who have experienced homelessness and housing insecurity.

Most of all, AB 1165 ensures future investments, funneled through the new Housing and Homelessness Agency, achieve state long-term objectives, consistent with a goal of the new agency: to coordinating resources through a planned strategy, transparent to legislators and the public. At the same time, this planning effort will reduce state costs. Federal strategic planning and collaboration to solve homelessness among veterans, for example, reduced homelessness among veterans by 55%, resulting in decreased health and other costs among veterans. It would accomplish these goals with minimal costs.

As we know what works to solve homelessness and housing unaffordability, planning for financial investments will ensure the state follows strategies proven to be effective. For these

reasons, we urge your support for this next step to reducing homelessness and increasing housing affordability.

Sincerely,

Sponsors:

Marshal Arnwine, Legislative Advocate, ACLU California Action
Amy Schur, Campaign Director, Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE) Action
Sharon Rapport, Director, California Policy, Corporation for Supportive Housing
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Supporting Organizations:

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Jennifer Rexroad, Executive Director, California Alliance of Caregivers
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Zak Franet, Senior Director of Strategy & External Affairs, Episcopal Community Services
Ora Prochovnik, Director of Litigation & Policy, Eviction Defense Collaborative
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Kelvin Driscoll, Director, SSG HOPICS

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Julian Crown, Policy & Research Associate, Housing Matters
David Duran, Co-Founder, Housing is a Human Right Orange County
Mariana Huerta, Housing Justice Project Director, Human Impact Partners
Daniela Flores, Executive Director, Imperial Valley Equity & Justice Coalition
Maribel Nunez, Executive Director, Inland Equity Community Land Trust
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