



March 16, 2022

The Honorable Buffy Wicks
Chair, Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee
1020 N Street, Room 156
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Assembly Bill 2211 (Ting) Shelter crisis: homeless shelters (SPONSOR)

Dear Chair Wicks,

On behalf of All Home, I am writing to express our support of AB 2211 (Ting). AB 2211 would help end California's unsheltered homelessness crisis by greatly reducing barriers to building new and expanding existing homeless shelters.

All Home is a Bay Area organization that advances regional solutions to disrupt the cycles of poverty and homelessness and create more economic mobility for people with extremely low incomes.

Despite California's unprecedented homelessness crisis, our state provides homeless residents with fewer shelter options than any other state in the U.S. Between 2010 and 2020, California's unsheltered homeless population increased 57 percent, during which time California's inventory of emergency shelters increased just 6 percent. According to the most recent estimates, approximately half of all unsheltered Americans live in California. While the ultimate goal is to provide every Californian in need of a home with permanent housing, we can and must do more to increase interim housing. This is in line with All Home's 1-2-4 Framework for Homelessness Solutions, which would create interim housing, permanent housing, and homelessness prevention interventions roughly at a 1-2-4 ratio.

Recent legislation (AB 932 and AB 2553) allows jurisdictions to declare a shelter crisis to speed approvals for new or expanded homeless shelters and navigation centers on public property. However, the opt-in nature of current law allows jurisdictions to continue rejecting the expansion of shelter. Additionally, current law does not include provisions for homeless shelters located on private property, which make up the majority of emergency shelters in the state. AB 2211 would strengthen existing law by:

- Removing the sunset date on the Shelter Crisis Act (AB 932);

- Declaring any local government in a shelter crisis if their population of unsheltered homeless to total homeless population is greater than the national average (outside of California);
- And extending shelter crisis provisions to shelters located on private property.

These provisions, along with safeguards and standards to ensure shelters comply with certain prevailing regulations (building, fire, sanitation, occupancy, etc.), would be a powerful tool to helping California end the unconscionable continuation of unsheltered homelessness in our state.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue, and for all these reasons we support AB 2211.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tomiquia Moss". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tomiquia Moss, Founder and CEO of All Home