



March 14, 2023

Assemblymember Buffy Wicks

Chair, Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee
1020 N Street, Room 156
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: AB 745 - Reentry Housing and Workforce Development Program – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Wicks,

On behalf of All Home, I am writing in support of AB 745, which would establish the Reentry Housing & Workforce Development Program within the Department of Housing and Community Development to provide county grants for housing, rental assistance, and services for formerly imprisoned people experiencing homelessness. All Home advances regional solutions to disrupt the cycles of poverty and homelessness, and create more economic mobility for people with extremely low incomes in the Bay Area and across the state.

Homelessness, poverty, incarceration and systemic inequity are inherently linked, and providing stable housing and workforce development is vital to successful reintegration.

AB 745 will reduce recidivism and address the housing crisis by connecting homeless response and reentry systems, and providing evidence-based, long-term approaches to address poverty and homelessness.

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation estimates that 17% of people on parole are currently experiencing homelessness as a result of systemic barriers to housing and employment. People on parole are nearly ten times more likely to experience homelessness than the general public, and are seven times more likely to recidivate when homeless than when housed, perpetuating the destructive cycle of incarceration, poverty, and homelessness. Discrimination in our justice system and housing markets has resulted in higher rates of incarceration among Black people, who are seven times more likely to experience barriers to employment, poverty, and homelessness.

Providing formerly incarcerated people experiencing homelessness and poverty with a stable, affordable place to live that does not limit length of stay, along with services that promote housing stability and employment, is proven to reduce recidivism by 40-60%. Secure housing also provides formerly incarcerated people the stability to access treatment for substance abuse issues and mental illness, and removes barriers to employment and economic mobility.

With California's housing crisis forcing many residents into homelessness and creating barriers to stable housing for those who have been incarcerated, now is the time for our state to invest in solutions to interrupt this cycle and help set returning citizens up for successful reintegration into our communities. We strongly support AB 745, and urge you and your colleagues on the Assembly Housing & Community Development Committee to approve and forward the bill.

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
All Home