



March 13, 2024

Assembly Majority Leader Emerita Reyes  
1021 O Street, Suite 5220  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 2396 – State Partnership for Affordable Housing Registries in California Grant Program- SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Reyes,

On behalf of All Home, I am proud to support AB 2396, your bill to establish the State Partnership for Affordable Housing Registries in California (SPAHRC) Grant Program to create online portals for low-income Californians to find and apply for affordable housing. All Home advances solutions to disrupt the cycles of poverty and homelessness and to create more housing security and economic mobility for Californians with the lowest incomes.

**A severe lack of affordable housing is at the root of homelessness in California, and our current system places barriers in the way of people with extremely low incomes trying to access the affordable housing that does exist.** Current and prospective residents of affordable housing consistently express how difficult and time-consuming it is to apply for units. Though California has over 500,000 deed-restricted multifamily affordable housing rental units, the absence of a centralized system makes the housing search incredibly inefficient for low-income households, who must search for affordable housing across various posting sites or learn about them through word of mouth. Existing posting sites often require applicants to parse through subsidized and unsubsidized units, and do not tailor search results to renters' specific qualifications or needs - a particular challenge for seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities. Renters may be unaware of affordable units for which they qualify, apply to units that do not meet their needs, or apply to the same listing on multiple sites.

AB 2396 offers an important and straightforward fix. The proposed bill will enable the Department of Housing and Community Development to award grants to local or regional agencies to develop online portals of affordable housing listings, information, and

applications. Based on the success of existing portals in San Francisco and the Bay Area, SPAHRC platforms will be user-friendly, accessible in multiple languages, and developed in open-source code to enable their replication in other jurisdictions.

Through AB 2396, the SPAHRC program will "spark" the resources and coordination necessary to make it easier for prospective residents to find and apply for affordable housing. Thank you for your leadership in authoring this important legislation and for all these reasons, we support AB 2396.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brett Andrews". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and "A".

Brett Andrews  
Interim Chief Executive  
All Home