



April 9, 2024

The Honorable Catherine Blakespear  
California State Senate  
1021 O Street, Suite 7340  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 1361 – Homelessness Services CEQA Exemption- SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Blakespear,

On behalf of All Home, I am proud to support SB 1361, your bill which clarifies that actions by local agencies taken to provide services for people experiencing homelessness are exempted from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). **All Home advances solutions to disrupt the cycles of poverty and homelessness and to create more economic mobility for people with extremely low incomes in the Bay Area and across the state.**

Homelessness is one of the greatest challenges facing local governments today. In 2023 it is estimated that 181,399 people are experiencing homelessness in the State of California. As we work toward solutions that increase supply of and access to permanent housing, interim housing offering supportive services can address immediate safety and health concerns for people currently experiencing homelessness.

In recent years, city programs have sheltered and housed tens of thousands of Californians through sustained multi-year investments in the state-local partnership of the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) program. California's HHAP investments have helped cities to rapidly establish transformational interventions such as bridge housing and emergency shelter beds, safe parking lots, quick-build modular apartments, and targeted rental assistance programs to house and shelter tens of thousands of people. **While the physical infrastructure is a critical component of these efforts, it is the coordinated and comprehensive services provided to residents that create a pathway to a permanent home.**

Although the Legislature has passed legislation that exempts the development of emergency homeless shelters from CEQA, the service contracts associated with local efforts to address the homeless crisis are not explicitly afforded the same CEQA exemption. These contracts include counseling, security, resource navigation, and other essential services that are unlikely to have a direct impact on the environment.

Given the need to rapidly address California's homelessness crisis, SB 1361 provides certainty for cities providing homeless assistance by clarifying that actions taken by a local agency to approve a contract providing services for people experiencing homelessness will not be subject to CEQA. **SB 1361 would give local agencies another tool to expedite administration of life saving services, to our most vulnerable neighbors.** For these reasons, we are proud to support SB 1361, and thank you for your leadership in authoring this important legislation.

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