



April 9, 2024

The Honorable Josh Becker  
1021 O Street, Suite 7250  
Sacramento, CA. 95814

**RE: SB 1395 – Shelter crisis: Low Barrier Navigation Center- SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Becker,

On behalf of All Home, I am writing to support SB 1395, your bill to empower local governments to quickly and efficiently address our unsheltered homelessness crisis by building more interim housing. **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.**

At the heart of the homelessness crisis is a severe shortage of housing units affordable to households earning below 30 percent of Area Median Income. California has fewer of these affordable housing units than any other state, the fourth highest rate of homelessness and the highest rate of unsheltered homelessness in the nation. Despite concerted efforts to increase housing production, California's budget, land, and zoning limitations have made sufficient permanent housing construction slow-moving and expensive. As a consequence, California's homeless population reached a record 181,399 individuals in 2023. This number will continue to grow unless California significantly increases housing production to right-size the inventory of permanent housing options – a process that will take many years.

In the meantime, California cannot continue allowing 68% of its homeless population to suffer the debilitating health and safety consequences of life without access to shelter and sanitation. **California must simultaneously scale additional solutions, including interim housing for people experiencing homelessness. Interim housing is a temporary place to stabilize after living on the streets, a low barrier, non-congregate setting with privacy, security, supportive services, and a pathway to a permanent home.** Practitioners report that people experiencing homelessness accept interim housing at higher rates than traditional shelter, and also move on to permanent housing at higher rates.

The severe toll of living outside demands that jurisdictions provide effective interim solutions while permanent housing continues to be built across the state. SB 1395 would encourage the development of interim housing across California. It would:

- Reduce construction time and costs by clarifying that relocatable, non-congregate interim housing is eligible for streamlined zoning.
- Empower local jurisdictions who want to build interim housing by cutting red tape and expediting approval processes.
- Extending the sunset for existing streamlining authorities – Shelter Crisis Act and Low Barrier Navigation Centers – to provide local jurisdictions more assurance that they can use existing tools to address our homelessness crisis past 2026.

To significantly reduce and ultimately end homelessness, we all must act with the urgency this crisis demands. The street cannot be the waiting room for a permanent home, and SB 1395 fills a critical gap as California works to end homelessness. Thank you for your leadership in authoring this important legislation and for all these reasons, we support SB 1395.

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