



September 11, 2024

Governor Gavin Newsom
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 37 (Caballero) (Principal Coauthors: Assembly Members Bains and Quirk-Silva)
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Grayson, Reyes, and Wicks)

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of All Home, I urge you to sign SB 37 (Caballero), the Older Adults and Adults with Disabilities Housing Stability Act, as it was amended on January 22, 2024. SB 37 would establish a three-year rental assistance pilot program for older adults and people with disabilities who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness and would help the State advance the goals of the landmark Master Plan on Aging (MPA).

All Home advances solutions that increase the housing and economic security of people with extremely low incomes in the Bay Area and across California.

Caught in the vice between inadequate income and rising housing costs, older adults have become the fastest growing age group experiencing homelessness in California, with 48% of California's homeless individuals now age 50 and older. In fact, since 2017, the rate of homelessness among older adults grew 73%. Similarly, people with disabilities face economic challenges that render them susceptible to homelessness, as they are more likely to live in poverty and comprise about 43% of those experiencing homelessness.

A key goal of the MPA is to prevent and end homelessness among older adults and other at-risk populations; yet no state program exists that provides targeted housing

subsidies for older or disabled adults. Targeted rental assistance is a proven strategy for preventing and ending homelessness. By providing housing subsidies to veterans experiencing homelessness, for example, the federal government reduced homelessness among veterans by over 55%.

The SB 37 pilot program will fund rental assistance that meets the specific needs of eligible households, some of whom may require only a small or “shallow” subsidy to exit homelessness or remain housed and others of whom may need deeper subsidies to exit homelessness or remain housed in higher-cost areas. It will also establish strong accountability measures and fund strategies that have worked locally, such as partnering with landlords and local aging and disability providers, to ensure people access and maintain housing stability.

In addition to helping hundreds of older adults and people with disabilities avoid or exit homelessness, SB 37 will allow California to pilot a state-level rental assistance model that could make a significant dent in the homelessness crisis among both populations. Enacting SB 37 is a smart next step in the state’s prevention efforts against homelessness. I urge you to sign this critical bill. Thank you for your continued leadership on efforts to improve the lives of California’s older adults and people with disabilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brett Andrews", written in a cursive style.

Brett Andrews
Interim Chief Executive
All Home