



March 19, 2025

Assemblymember Mia Bonta  
Chair, Assembly Committee on Health  
1020 N Street, Suite 390  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Support for AB 804 – Medi-Cal: housing support services – SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Bonta:

On behalf of All Home, I am writing to support AB 804 (Wicks), which would require the Department of Healthcare Services to seek federal approval to make housing support services a Medi-Cal benefit. All Home is a Bay Area organization advancing regional solutions that disrupt the cycles of poverty and homelessness for people with extremely low incomes. Central to our mission, we know that strategies to increase housing supply can also increase health outcomes.

Homelessness dramatically impacts health outcomes, costs, and access to care. Health costs for Medicaid beneficiaries experiencing chronic homelessness can add up to over \$100,000 in one year. Despite this high spending, people experiencing chronic homelessness die, on average, 25-30 years younger than housed people with similar health conditions.

**That's why services that support housing retention have such a dramatically positive impact on health**, and why California has made such important investments in housing support services through CalAIM.. These services include the following:

- Housing transition & navigation services to connect people to housing;
- Housing deposits to help people access a place to live, such as security deposits; and
- Housing tenancy and sustaining services to help people maintain leases, connect to community supports they need, and gain employment if able to work.

These services are an important piece of the response to homelessness, reducing barriers to getting and staying housed. Medi-Cal managed care plans can choose to provide housing support services as a community support, resulting in different eligibility requirements and standards, even in the same county. **A statewide Medi-Cal benefit would expand equitable access to Medi-Cal enrollees experiencing homelessness, and would allow California to scale up provision and availability of services for as long as needed by the enrollee.** Further, this

benefit would allow California to take advantage of a federal match of up to 90% for the expansion population.

In 2021, DHCS [shared its intent to](#) make housing support services a Medi-Cal benefit for Californians experiencing homelessness. Since then, the department has made significant investments to build a statewide network of providers with capacity to offer culturally competent housing support services.

**By requiring DHCS to seek federal approval for a Medi-Cal housing support services benefit, AB 804 is a meaningful next step toward offering person-centered health care to people experiencing homelessness.** Passing this legislation will drive plans to develop capacity and provider participation, standardize eligibility, and draw down millions of currently unused federal dollars to improve health outcomes among Californians currently experiencing homelessness, and prevent those at risk from entering homelessness. For these reasons, we strongly support AB 804, and respectfully urge your “Aye” vote to move this important bill forward.

Sincerely,

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

Brett Andrews  
Interim Chief Executive  
All Home