Please place letter on your organization’s letterhead

*E-mail the letter to:* *graciela.castillo-krings@gov.ca.gov* *and cc:* info@nonprofithousing.org

DATE

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown Jr.

Governor of California

State Capitol Building

Sacramento, California 95814

**RE: Respectfully requesting your signature on AB 1157 (Mullin)— School property: school district advisory committees: teacher and school district employee housing: property tax exemption - SUPPORT**

Dear Governor Brown,

On behalf of ORGANIZATION NAME, we are writing to respectfully request your signature on Assembly Bill 1157 which allows school districts to prioritize building teacher housing on their land without having to appoint a school advisory committee and extending property tax exemptions to those properties.

1-2 sentences about your organization.

**Our students are suffering as schools struggle to retain and recruit teachers, exacerbated by our state’s high cost of housing.**

School districts throughout California, and especially in the Bay Area, struggle with recruiting and retaining staff and teachers, largely due to a shortage of affordable housing within the districts these employees teach and work.

This year alone, the average rental price for a two bedroom apartment in San Mateo County was $3,400 per month. Yet teachers and school employees, like other civil servants, are paid based on available state funding and not on market pressures, making it difficult to pay wages to match the local housing market.

Teacher turnover is harmful to our students and their ability to receive a good education. According to the Center for Education Policy Analysis at Stanford University, teacher turnover has a significant and negative impact on the achievement of students, especially in schools with large populations of low-performing and minority students. These schools have seen a rise in the number of temporary permits, waivers, and intern credentials issued by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

**AB 1157 provides a tool that can be used by school districts in order to increase recruitment and retention by creating more affordable housing options for school employees and teachers.**

Specifically, AB 1157 allows school districts to prioritize the construction of teacher housing on land school districts already own without the need to appoint a school advisory committee and extending property tax exemptions to those properties so that teachers and school district employees can have access to housing they need in our exceedingly expensive region.

Teacher housing provides a creative tool that school districts can use in order to attract and retain new, qualified teachers. We are already seeing improved teacher retention in districts using similar models, including in Los Angeles and Santa Clara. AB 1157 would provide much-needed regulatory relief to school districts that that wish to emulate Santa Clara and Los Angeles by developing in-district housing for their own school employees.

We are grateful for your leadership and urge you to sign AB 1157,

Sincerely,

NAME

TITLE

ORGANIZATION