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: Requesting your signature on AB 1598 (Mullin)- Affordable Housing Authorities - SUPPORT**

Dear Governor Brown,

On behalf of ORGANIZATION NAME we are writing to request your signature on Assembly Bill 1598, which will provide local governments with a critical tool to address the housing affordability crisis without raising taxes.

1-2 sentences about your organization.

**California is Facing a Housing Affordability Crisis**

While we believe that everyone should have access to a safe and affordable home, our state has fallen behind on creating these opportunities: Most of our families struggle to afford the cost of living in their local communities, including 50% of our moderate-income families. The most vulnerable of them risk joining the 134,000+ Californians who are already homeless on any given night.

**Cities and Counties have been starved of affordable housing funds just as they need them the most**

Over the past six years, the number of low-income jobs in the Bay Area has far outpaced the creation of new affordable homes. At the same time, California lost nearly 70% of all state and federal funding formerly available for affordable housing with even deeper cuts anticipated to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. AB 1598 improves the ability of cities and counties to address their yawning affordable housing funding through expanding how they create Community Revitalization and Investment Authorities (CRIAs).

Expanding CRIAs will provide localities with a much-needed tool to address the housing affordability crisis. As you know, current state law limits CRIAs to areas where there is finding of “blight” and are characterized by crime and high unemployment. Many Bay Area communities, however, are not lacking in private investment in commercial and office development but instead are experiencing significant job growth without any corresponding affordable housing development. CRIAs allow jurisdictions to be able to capture the tax increment produced by new commercial development and invest those revenues in the production of homes affordable to their workers without raising taxes.

This common sense and budget neutral approach will create a valuable tool for the Bay Area’s cities and counties to meaningfully address our region’s affordability crisis all without raising taxes.

We are grateful for your leadership and we urge you to sign Assembly Bill 1598.

Sincerely,

NAME

TITLE

ORGANIZATION