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 Assembly Bill 74 (Chiu), Housing - SUPPORT**

Dear Governor Brown—

On behalf of ORGANIZATION NAME, we writing to request your signature on Assembly Bill 74 which would create the Housing for a Healthy California program to be funded through the National Housing Trust Fund. This bill will ensure that many of the Bay Area’s nearly 30,000 homeless residents can have a roof over their heads.

1-2 sentences about your organization.

AB 74 can create real, sustainable progress for solving chronic homelessness in our region and across our state by giving chronically homeless individuals in poor health a chance to heal and rebuild their lives in a stable environment. AB 74 will create a “Housing for a Healthy California” program to move people out of chronic homelessness to supportive housing through grants to counties for capital and operating assistance or operating reserve grants and capital loans to developers. “Housing for a Healthy California” grants would be matched with services funding, like the Medi-Cal Whole Person Care pilot or Health Home Program. With this program, we can ensure that our most vulnerable residents can lead lives with dignity and get the care they need.

**Housing is healthcare**

Acknowledging decades of research demonstrating supportive housing decreases Medicaid costs among homeless beneficiaries, California’s Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) proposed using Medi-Cal to fund rental assistance in their 1115 Medicaid Waiver proposal to the federal government. The Federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) then approved a 1115 waiver that includes the Whole Person Care pilot program which allows counties to match federal funds to pay for services that help people find housing and remain housed. DHCS is also working to implement a new Health Home Program that would fund these services for high-cost homeless beneficiaries.

Assembly Bill 74 would complete the “Whole Person Care” nature of the 1115 pilots and the Health Home Program by creating a “Housing for a Healthy California” Program at the state-level. The Program would fund grants to counties for capital and operating assistance or operating reserve grants and capital loans to developers.

**AB 74 is sustainable and cost-effective**

Paying for the hospital stays of homeless people without also putting a roof over their heads has proven to be both ineffectual and cost-intensive. Californians experiencing homelessness incur disproportionate costs to local and state programs, costing an average $2,897 per month. Frequent hospital users who are also homeless also typically cost more for hospitals to take care for the longer they remain homeless. Despite high health costs, people experiencing homelessness have poor health outcomes and often-shortened lives.

AB 74 is an investment funded through the National Housing Trust Fund that would decrease health care costs through improving the health outcomes of the chronically homeless. A rigorous evaluation would determine any changes to health care costs from moving homeless participants into housing, providing the Legislature with the data to determine whether future investments are warranted.

We are grateful for your leadership and urge you to sign AB 74.

Sincerely,

NAME

TITLE

ORGANIZATION