PLACE ON LETTERHEAD

[Insert Date]

The Honorable Buffy Wicks

California State Assembly

1021 O Street, Suite 4240

Sacramento, CA  95814

**Re: Assembly Bill (AB) 2244 - Housing Production on Religious Properties - Support**

Dear Assemblymember Wicks,

On behalf of [Organization Name], we write in support of AB 2244 (Wicks) which would reduce residential parking requirements for newly constructed religious institutions and allow the development of critically needed affordable housing projects.

[Include 1-2 sentences to briefly describe your organization: You may include how many people you serve and where, how many people you employ and where, etc.]

California’s religious communities are leading innovative efforts to redevelop portions of their property to alleviate the state’s housing crisis. Religious institutions across the state are working with cities from Oakland to Los Angeles to discuss turning underused land into housing. However, plans to build housing on newly proposed developments have hit roadblocks. Current state law eases parking requirements for housing on religious properties, but local governments have interpreted that it only applies to existing religious institutions, not new ones that are proposed to be developed. These interpretations strictly limit the applicability of this important housing option for all future congregations that may wish to support and address the housing needs of their local community.

AB 2244 will clarify that the reduction of residential parking requirements for housing development on religious properties applies equally to existing and proposed religious institutions. This is an important step towards helping low-income Californians find stable housing opportunities.

Thank you for your leadership on these critical housing and homelessness issues and for all these reasons, we support AB 2244.

Sincerely,

[Insert Your Full Name]

[Insert Your Title]

[Insert Your Organization’s Name]