[ON YOUR LETTERHEAD]

The Honorable David Chiu

California State Assembly

State Capitol, Room 4112

Sacramento, CA 95814

Attention: Lisa Engel

Lisa.Engel@asm.ca.gov

 Re: Support for AB 2162 (Chiu), Supportive Housing Streamlining Bill

Dear Assemblymember Chiu:

On behalf of [NAME OF YOUR ORGANIZATION], I am writing in support of AB 2162, the Supportive Housing Streamlining Act. [ONE OR TWO SENTENCES ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION]

From experience, we know that supportive housing is a cost-effective intervention in ending homelessness for our state’s most vulnerable residents, some of whom have been homeless for decades. It allows people with disabilities to live independently, provides a sense of community, and contributes to neighborhoods. Despite the documented benefits of supportive housing, local jurisdictions often reject or delay approval of applications for building supportive housing. Siting supportive housing has become a routine challenge among supportive housing developers.

AB 2162 will allow developers to build supportive housing “by right” statewide, including rural areas with little to no current supportive housing, commercially-zoned areas that allow for residential use, and property previously occupied and now blighted. It would promote siting of supportive housing without developers having to battle the stigma of housing people with disabilities. While local jurisdictions would be able to apply objective standards to reviewing an application to build supportive housing, streamlining supportive housing would allow non-profit developers to build supportive housing without the prolonged approval process typically required in these projects. It would allow developers and local jurisdictions to use public dollars more effectively and quickly. And it would encourage developers to create more housing for people experiencing homelessness.

For these reasons, we strongly support this important legislation, and appreciate your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

[YOUR NAME]

[YOUR TITLE]

cc: Sharon Rapport, Corporation for Supportive Housing, Sharon.Rapport@csh.org

Tyrone Buckley, Housing California, tbuckley@housingca.org