



County Administrative Office
Governmental & Legislative Affairs

Josh Candelaria
Director

March 18, 2019

The Honorable Ling Ling Chang
California State Senate
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 573 (Chang) – As Introduced on February 22, 2019 - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Chang:

The County of San Bernardino is pleased to support SB 573, which will provide a continuous appropriation of \$250 million to the Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) to assist cities and counties to address homelessness in California.

Investing in affordable housing and homeless programs has reduced a surge in California's homeless population, causing it to dip by 1 percent in 2018. However, to further diminish homelessness, continuous investment is needed. Although progress has been made in the state, recent federal data estimates the state's homeless population is at 134,278 in 2017 or 25 percent of the nation's homeless population. While national homelessness has decreased by 13 percent since 2010, homelessness in California has increased by 9 percent in the same period.

In 2018, Governor Brown and the Legislature agreed to \$500 million in one-time General Fund expenditures to create the Homeless Emergency Aid Program block grant. HEAP will provide direct assistance to cities, counties and Continuums of Care (CoCs) to begin to address California's homelessness crisis. After the close of the HEAP grant application process, 100 percent of applicants were approved for funding, demonstrating the need for the program.

The HEAP grant program will assist communities in better serving their homeless populations through services such as street outreach and criminal justice diversion programs, housing vouchers, and rapid re-housing program that are vital programs to address homelessness.

For the above reasons, the County of San Bernardino is pleased to support SB 573. If you have any questions regarding the County's position, please do not hesitate to contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental Affairs at (909) 387-4821 or jcandelaria@sbcountry.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Curt Hagman".

Curt Hagman
Fourth District Supervisor
Chairman, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors

cc: San Bernardino County Legislative Delegation

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