

Submitter: Sandra Comstock

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Transportation and Economic Development

Measure: SB5511

Dear Committee Members,

I cannot emphasize enough the importance of passing SB 511 and in particular the following components

\$1.0325 billion for housing production / supply

\$415.45 million for homelessness response and prevention

\$17.6 million for homeownership opportunities and keeping homeowners in their homes

As an organization that both hires unsheltered community members and serves 100s a week with showers, healthcare, clothing and bedding and a small moment of community sanctuary and connection, I am too keenly aware of the harms they face both sleeping on the streets and in congregate shelters. Likewise, many of those we employ and serve have been waiting for months and years for a safe home to rest their head and many more have lost housing as rents skyrocket and wages don't keep up.

Right now we must reduce the onramps to houselessness through eviction prevention and rental assistance, increase the off ramps through investment in project turnkey and master leasing and supportive services to help people recover from the trauma of living on the streets, as well as start serious investment in the future by building permanently affordable units particularly in the 30% and below income range.

Thank you for your consideration and support of these crucial investments in whole community health and wellbeing.

sincerely

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