

Submitter: Jan Kaplan

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital
Construction

Measure: HB5030

For the record I am Jan Kaplan, Newport City Councilor. The city has submitted a Capital request form to the legislative fiscal office for financial assistance in the 23-25 budget to help pay to convert a partially constructed 16,000 square foot building into a low barrier homeless shelter and resource center. The property is just under an acre in size and contains a shallow building that was intended for simple use. The city has committed a little over \$1 million for this project and is seeking \$2.5 million to turn this facility into a regional shelter, an on-going critical central coast need.

City council has identified establishing a homeless shelter as a top priority for the past few years. Lack of sufficient funding and the search for a suitable site have been the chief obstacles to accomplishing this. We have now identified the site and need your help to fund the project.

Rural communities like Newport have a true homelessness problem and we do not have the needed resources to address these problems. Please remember that although Newport's census is around 10,000 we typically have around 30,000 people in the city including people in need of housing. Ironically the lack of a shelter contributes to a negative public perception of people who are homeless because of the desperation forced on these folks. Lincoln county and all 7 of its cities are working hard to create safety and dignity for these citizens and respectfully ask for your help.