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City Manager
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Environmental Services
707-822-8184

Police
707-822-2428

Recreation
707-822-7091

Community Development
707-822-5955

Finance
707-822-5951

Engineering
707-825-2128

Transportation
707-822-3775

August 14, 2020

The Honorable Anthony Portantino
Chair, Senate Committee on Appropriations
State Capitol
Sacramento CA, 95814

RE: AB 1845 Office to End Homelessness— SUPPORT

Dear Chair Portantino:

On behalf of the City of Arcata, I am writing in support of AB 1845.

AB 1845 establishes a single point of contact on homelessness at the state level, by creating a Secretary on Housing Insecurity and Homelessness, who will be in charge of overseeing all homelessness programs that would continue to be managed by existing entities. By placing the Coordinating and Financing Council within the Office on Homelessness, the state can ensure proper authority exists to effectively coordinate and hold the state accountable for its response to addressing homelessness.

Increasing housing costs and stagnating incomes have been the main drivers that cause individuals to fall into homelessness. To help alleviate those pressures, the Legislature and Governor has allocated significant resources in response to the growing crisis. While state funding plays a critical role in the fight against homelessness, funding alone will not solve systemic issues.

For decades, the state has disregarded multiple appeals by those who are charged with providing government oversight, to create a single entity in charge of homelessness. Currently, there are 13 different state agencies and departments administering at least 30 different programs relating to homelessness.

Continued state investments, combined with significant structural changes to how California oversees, coordinates, and delivers its homelessness programs is essential to ensuring that state and local programs are being utilized effectively. On behalf of the City of Arcata, I respectfully request your support of AB 1845.

Respectfully,

Michael Winkler

Michael Winkler, Mayor
City of Arcata

cc:

Senator Mike McGuire, Senator.McGuire@senate.ca.gov & VIA FAX: (916) 651-4902
Congressman Jared Huffman, John.Driscoll@mail.house.gov
Assembly Member Jim Wood, VIA FAX: (707) 445-6607 & (916) 319-2102
Sara Sanders, League Regional Public Affairs Manager, sanders@cacities.org
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