

# County of Monterey



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May 15, 2023

The Honorable Luz Rivas  
California State Assembly  
1021 O Street, Room 4250  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 799 (L. Rivas) Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program: Homelessness Accountability and Prevention Act – SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Luz Rivas:

The County of Monterey is pleased to support your measure Assembly Bill (AB) 799, which would require the State to take a more direct leadership role in working with local jurisdictions collaboratively to set homeless reduction targets. This measure would establish a strong accountability and results framework.

The State of California accounts for 30% of the nation's homeless population. The State must respond with funding to local governments at the scale needed to meet the scope of the crisis. However, to provide that level of stable funding, the State must ensure local governments take a data-driven, evidence-based approach moving forward, and local jurisdictions must invest in comprehensive and strategic solutions proven to reduce homelessness.

This lack of accountability, coupled with inconsistent funding has caused a public policy feedback loop resulting in homelessness response systems unable to fully meet the challenges of rising housing costs and insufficient supply.

AB 799 would require the California Interagency Council on Homelessness to set statewide metrics that are ambitious and achievable to incorporate into its Action Plan. It further requires the Council to establish a financing plan for solving homelessness, as well as to establish a unified funding application to simplify and consolidate the application process for the multiple programs now administered through multiple State departments. This measure streamlines the administrative burdens on local systems, while ensuring that more detailed information is made public to improve transparency and oversight.

AB 799 would further require big cities, counties, and continuums of care to collaborate on a regional homeless action plan, a comprehensive plan to prevent and end homelessness, every five years. This plan would incorporate performance metrics informed by statewide metrics, would require the regional entities to set in motion best practices other jurisdictions have incorporated successfully, and would ensure local jurisdictions invest their homelessness resources in proven solutions that quickly rehouse people and reduce homelessness. The California Interagency Council on Homelessness would review and approve or deny plans. If a region fails to submit an approved plan or fails to achieve specific benchmarks, they may be unable to access State homelessness funding. AB 799 sets consequences for failing to meet goals, including the potential for HHAP funds to be reallocated to another entity within the same region.

To move the state towards an effective solution, the following must happen: the legislature, administration, local governments, and advocates must work together to produce solutions that create clear accountability, firm homelessness reduction targets, and stable ongoing funding.

For these reasons the County of Monterey supports AB 799. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the County's Public Policy Advisor, Ashley Walker of Nossaman LLP at 916-442-8888.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Luis A. Alejo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Luis" being the most prominent.

Luis A. Alejo, Chair  
Board of Supervisors

Cc: The Honorable Anna Caballero, 14<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
The Honorable John Laird, 17<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
The Honorable Robert Rivas, 29<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
The Honorable Dawn Addis, 30<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)  
Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)