



NOSSAMAN LLP | Memorandum

TO: The Honorable Senator Scott Wiener, Chair
Senate Housing Committee

FROM: Nossaman LLP on behalf of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors

DATE: June 23, 2023

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

The County of Monterey is pleased to support measure Assembly Bill (AB) 799 by Assembly Member Luz Rivas. This measure 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.

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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 pleased to support 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,



Ashley Walker
Nossaman LLP

CC: Honorable Luz Rivas, California State Assembly, Author
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Hon. Dawn Addis, 30th Assembly District
Hon. Anna Caballero, 14th Senate District
Hon. John Laird, 17th Senate District
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