

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS  
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**Co-Sponsor AB 71 Homeless Funding: Bring California Home Act**

California leads the nation in the total number of people experiencing homelessness, with one in four Americans experiencing homelessness residing in California. According to the annual Homeless Count conducted in January 2020, over 151,000 Californians were homeless on any given night, with an alarming 43% residing in Los Angeles County. It is difficult to imagine how this human suffering has grown since early 2020, in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and recession. It is equally difficult to comprehend the thousands of additional families, youth, elderly, and other vulnerable adults currently on the edge of an economic cliff, trying to hold on to keep from falling into homelessness.

Los Angeles County, in partnership with the State, cities, and hundreds of tireless advocates and service providers have made significant progress combatting this suffering. Since the landmark passage of Measure H in March 2017, the countywide homelessness movement has doubled the number of family members and individuals

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moving from homelessness into permanent housing each year, while also greatly expanding the number of families and individuals moving into interim housing.

The service partnerships strengthened through the County's Homeless Initiative and fueled by Measure H have provided the solid foundation on which we have built our region's homeless services system. Local Measure H revenue has led to a significant expansion of outreach, emergency shelter, rapid rehousing, and permanent supportive housing across all parts of the County.

The one-time State Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program Grants included in the State FY 2019-20 and FY 2020-21 budgets have also been indispensable in the short term to help shore up our County's response, especially in the aftermath of the pandemic. Additionally, since mid-March 2020, the states of emergency declared at the State and federal levels, as well as significant infusion of one-time State and federal emergency funding, have been critical to our countywide efforts to mitigate the spread of illness and death among people experiencing homelessness.

But even though this one-time State and federal funding has been immensely important, it is woefully insufficient to meaningfully address the long-term homelessness and housing crisis we face as a county and a state. To make matters worse, the economic recession precipitated by the pandemic has resulted in deep Measure H revenue shortfalls in the current and future fiscal year.

Despite the progress made to date, the number of people becoming homeless is outpacing the number we help exit homelessness. In 2019, an average of 207 people moved from homelessness into permanent housing every day in Los Angeles County, but 227 others fell into homelessness during the same period due to runaway housing costs

and other factors. A 2020 system analysis performed by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) found that, based on current rates of inflow into homelessness and excluding capital costs to build new units of housing, the County requires \$500 million every year in ongoing funding for services, operating costs, and rental subsidies (on top of existing federal, state, and local funding) to move the needle on reducing homelessness.

In January 2020, the Governor's Council of Regional Homeless Advisors recommended that the State establish an ongoing State revenue source to provide localities with \$2 billion a year to prevent and combat homelessness. Shortly thereafter, in his February 2020 State of the State address, the Governor expressed support for ongoing State funding to combat the homelessness crisis. This on-going State funding is more necessary today than ever before.

AB 71 (L. Rivas) - the Bring California Home Act – delivers a comprehensive plan to address homelessness by investing, for the first time in history, dedicated, ongoing State funding in long-term solutions to homelessness. AB 71 would establish a collaborative statewide strategy, fill gaps within the State's response to the crisis, and scale up evidence-based solutions, while promoting innovations to move people quickly into permanent housing.

AB 71 also aims to eliminate racial bias, ensure youth and survivors of domestic violence have equitable access to housing and services, and enhance coordination and collaboration among state and local agencies. The bill ensures a transparent and accountable process through performance measures, rewards local governments for hitting aggressive goals, and removes funding for any jurisdiction failing to spend

resources quickly. It requires annual reporting and strengthens data collection at the local and state levels. In transforming the State's response to homelessness, it will also create a more transparent program than the State has ever before crafted.

AB 71 would close corporate tax loopholes and restore the historic corporate tax rate to its 1980's level to provide \$2.4 billion statewide in annual, sustained funding to deliver the long-term results California needs to reverse the cycle of homelessness across the State. The bill is expected to generate over \$480 million per year in funding collectively for the County and City of Los Angeles and City of Long Beach, and additional funding for new housing projects built with dollars to developers.

On November 10, 2020, the Board voted to co-sponsor the Bring California Home Plan which was launched by a statewide coalition of homelessness and housing advocates and organizations, including the City of Los Angeles, to create dedicated new, on-going revenue to combat the homelessness and housing crisis. This statewide coalition is now sponsoring AB 71 as part of the Bring California Home Plan.

**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors authorize the County of Los Angeles to co-sponsor AB 71 (L. Rivas) - the Bring California Home Act – and direct the County's Sacramento advocates to take all appropriate legislative advocacy actions to support this effort.

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