



California State Association of Counties
1100 K Street, Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 327-7500



County Behavioral Health Directors Association
2125 19th Street, 2nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95818
(916) 556-3477



Urban Counties of California
1100 K Street, Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 327-7531

March 9, 2018

The Honorable Richard Roth
Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee #4
State Capitol, Room 4034
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 2 (Atkins) Trailer Bill Proposal – Homeless Funding - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Roth:

The Urban Counties of California (UCC), a coalition of California's most populous counties, the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing each of California's 58 counties, and the County Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA), representing California's behavioral health directors, are pleased to provide comments regarding the proposed Trailer Bill Language regarding the implementation of SB 2 (Chapter 364, Statutes of 2017) and the funding provided through the measure to combat homelessness.

We are in strong support of the Trailer Bill's proposal to provide funds to the counties to combat homelessness, since our members deliver the critical services needed, such as food benefits, housing assistance, behavioral health services, and health care to the homeless in our communities. Regardless of how SB 2 implementation is ultimately designed, it is clear that counties are eager to participate in this critical new one-time funding opportunity.

Homelessness continues to be a top priority for counties throughout California, from the largest urban counties to the smallest rural communities. Counties are on the front lines of this growing problem and have worked with the Administration and the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) on the No Place Like Home Program (NPLH), as well as other initiatives, such as the Whole Person Care pilot project and the Housing Support Program offered to CalWORKs recipients. In each of these efforts, counties worked in collaboration with the Legislature, Administration, and other stakeholders to ensure that county needs and concerns regarding the guidelines and implementation were addressed.

It is with these previous efforts in mind that we comment today on SB 2 implementation. More specifically, the proposed Trailer Bill which would allocate the homeless funding provided in the first year of SB 2 to counties based on population, which is consistent with NPLH. We have identified variations in how the funds in SB 2 are proposed to be allocated, with NPLH providing more funds to counties with 5 percent of the total homeless population, the Trailer Bill proposes to use a count of more than 4,000 homeless persons under the Point-In-Time count to instead determine which counties

received \$5 million instead of \$1 million. We are seeking more information as to why the 4,000 person level was included in the Trailer Bill and the reasons for its inclusion.

Overall, since the Trailer Bill in its current form allocates differing amounts to certain counties, our organizations and members are still in the process of reviewing and making sense of the proposed funding allocations.

In closing, we respectfully urge the Legislature to provide critical funding to counties under SB 2. Counties are working to address this crisis in various innovative ways and SB 2 funding may be critical to our efforts to address the complexity of homelessness and reduce the number of those living on our streets.

We wish to thank you and the Committee for your interest in this issue. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at the contact information below. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jolena L. Voorhis
UCC Executive Director
(916) 327-7500



Farrah McDaid Ting
CSAC Legislative Representative
(916) 650-8110



Kirsten Barlow
CBHDA Executive Director
(916) 556-3477

cc: Senate President pro Tempore Kevin de León
Members and Consultants, Senate Budget Subcommittee #4
Michael Cohen, Director, Department of Finance
Ben Metcalf, Director, Department of Housing and Community Development
Jennifer Kent, Director, Department of Health Care Services
Donna Campbell, Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of the Governor
Marjorie Swartz, Policy Consultant, Office of pro-Tem De León
Brian Uhler, Principal Fiscal and Policy Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office