



Assemblymember Toni Atkins, 78th Assembly District

Affordable Housing Package

IN BRIEF

The Assembly Democrats plan includes:

- Establishing a permanent source of funding for affordable housing by placing a small fee on real estate transaction documents, excluding home sales.
- Increasing the state's Low Income Housing Tax Credit by \$300 million.
- Legislation to create a framework for how California will spend any funds received from the National Housing Trust Fund that are expected to flow to states in 2016.
- Using a portion of the Proposition 47 funds to reduce recidivism through investment in rapid rehousing and housing supports for formerly incarcerated Californians.

THE ISSUE

California has 20% of the nation's homeless population, with 134,000 homeless people living in streets, parks, alleys, and freeway off-ramps. The state has the highest percentage of unsheltered homeless in the nation, with sixty-three percent of homeless Californians not having shelter. California has 24% of the nation's homeless veterans and one-third of the nation's chronically homeless. The state also has the largest numbers of unaccompanied homeless children and youth, with 30% of the national total.

The Public Policy Institute of California released a report on February 2015 finding that 36.2% of mortgaged homeowners and 47.7% of all renters are spending more than a third of their household incomes on housing. With the cost of housing rising, these bills come at a pressing time for many Californians.

Increasing affordable housing is good for the economy, the budget, jobs and families:

- The Bay Area Council, the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, the Los Angeles Business Council, the Orange County Business Council, and the Silicon Valley Leadership Group agree that less affordable housing impedes businesses from attracting and retaining workers.

- On average, a single homeless Californian incurs \$2,897 per month in county costs for emergency room visits and in-patient hospital stays, as well as the costs of arrests and incarceration. Roughly 79% of these costs are cut when that person has an affordable home.
- An estimated 29,000 jobs would be created annually for every \$500 million spent on affordable housing.
- Numerous studies have shown that children in crowded homes have poorer health, worse scores on math and reading tests and higher rates of depression and behavioral problems.

These bills are crucial to stabilizing the state's development and construction marketplace. If developers know there are funds available and that they will be there on a regular basis, they will take on the risk that comes with development—and create a reliable pipeline of well-paying construction jobs in the process.

SUPPORT

Treasurer John Chiang, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, Assemblymember Ed Chau, Assemblymember Jimmy Gomez, Assemblymember David Chiu, San Diego Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer, San Francisco Mayor Edwin M. Lee, and Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf

San Diego Housing Federation, Housing California, California Building Industry Association, California Infill Federation, Bay Area Council, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, California Housing Consortium, Silicon Valley Leadership Group, and Western Center on Law & Poverty

*Partial list

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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