

(Date)

The Honorable Kevin de León
President pro Tempore of the
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, California 95814

The Honorable Anthony Rendon
Speaker of the California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 219
Sacramento, California 95814

The Honorable Mark Leno, Chair
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review
Committee
State Capitol, Room 5100
Sacramento, California 95814

The Honorable Philip Ting, Chair
Assembly Budget Committee
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, California 95814

**RE: SUPPORT - Los Angeles County Trailer Bill Language Proposal to Help
Counties Combat Homelessness**

Dear Senator de León and Speaker Rendon; and Senator Leno and Assembly Member Ting:

The (Name of your organization) urges your support for trailer bill language (TBL) that would provide counties with the authority to seek voter approval to impose a special tax on personal annual incomes over \$1 million dollars for purposes of providing housing and services for homeless individuals/families. We are experiencing a severe homelessness problem statewide, and Los Angeles County's homeless population continues to grow at an alarming rate.

Combating homelessness is a top priority across Los Angeles county. On February 9, 2016, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the coordinated set of 47 strategies in 6 categories: Prevent Homelessness; Subsidize Housing; Increase Income; Provide Case Management and Services; Create a Coordinated System; and Increase Affordable/Homeless Housing. To launch the initial implementation of these strategies, the Board allocated \$100 million in one-time funding, while emphasizing the critical need for ongoing revenue to sustain the strategies.

According to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), the overall number of homeless people in the County on any given night increased to 46,874 in 2016, which is 6% more than in 2015, and 19% more than in 2013. The subset of homeless people living in encampments, tents and vehicles increased by 20% from 2015 to 2016, and a staggering 123% from 2013 to 2016. LAHSA estimates that \$450 million in additional, ongoing revenue is needed to address the current gap in homeless housing and services, excluding housing construction costs. A one-half percent tax on personal income over \$1 million/year is estimated to generate \$243 million annually in Los Angeles County.

In addition, Los Angeles County conducted a poll to determine voter support for potential revenue raising options. The most popular option is a tax on personal income above \$1 million/year which is supported by 76% of likely Los Angeles County voters in the November 2016 General Election. Additionally, that same poll found that 64% of the voters polled would support the extension of Proposition 30, and that a measure to tax high income to combat homelessness would have no impact on the level of support for the extension of Proposition 30.

I urge your support for the inclusion of the TBL proposal in the final California Budget Act of 2016-17.

Sincerely,

(add your name)

c: Portia Date, pdate@counties.org
homelessinitiative@ceo.lacounty.gov