



March 1, 2018

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The Honorable Richard Pan, M.D.
Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #3
State Capitol, Room 5114
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Adult Protective Services – Home Safe

Dear Senator Pan:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), I write to express our SUPPORT for the stakeholder proposal from the County Welfare Directors Association, California Elder Justice Coalition, and California Commission on Aging to provide \$15 million General Fund in 2018-19 to establish Home Safe, a homelessness prevention demonstration grant program for victims of elder and dependent adult abuse and neglect served by county-run Adult Protective Services (APS). This proposed one-time investment would allow participating counties to demonstrate over three years how providing short-term housing crisis intervention can help reduce the incidence and risk of homelessness among California's older and dependent adults.

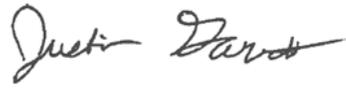
Victims of elder and dependent adult abuse and neglect are at unique risk of becoming homeless. Many of these older adults typically led "conventional" lives until a crisis led them directly to homelessness, such as being financially exploited by a scam artist or family member, or being left unable to care for themselves after the death of a spouse or caregiver. The consequences of homelessness among older adults are dire and costly.

Research shows homeless adults are at higher risk of chronic health problems, such as diabetes, lung disease, and cognitive impairment, and are likely to die decades earlier than those who are housed. For many victims, the health hardships of homelessness exacerbate the physical and emotional wounds of abuse and neglect, leading to expensive emergency room visits and accelerated entry into nursing home care.

A one-time \$15 million General Fund investment to establish Home Safe would allow participating county APS programs to demonstrate over three years how intervening at the moment of crisis can prevent homelessness among victims of abuse and neglect. Home Safe counties would identify clients at risk of losing their homes and provide services including short-term rental and utility assistance, heavy cleaning, immediate mental health treatment, and intensive case management to ensure clients are able to maintain their homes. Home Safe builds on the best practices and evidence-based principles of homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing supported by the Legislature in recent years. Since APS already works with individuals in moments of crisis, the program is in a unique position to target assistance to those most likely to become homeless at the moment they need it most.

For these reasons, CSAC supports the stakeholder proposal for a one-time augmentation of \$15 million General Fund to help victims of elder abuse and neglect remain safely in their own homes. Should you have any questions about our position, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 650-8117 or jgarrett@counties.org. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Justin Garrett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Justin Garrett
Legislative Representative

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #3
The Honorable Holly Mitchell, Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Theresa Pena, Consultant, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Rebecca Hamilton, Senate Republican Fiscal Office
Will Lightbourne, Director, Department of Social Services
Robert Smith, Department of Social Services
Kristin Shelton, HHS, Department of Finance
Jay Kapoor, HHS, Department of Finance
County Welfare Directors Association