



CWDA
Advancing Human Services
for the Welfare of All Californians

925 L Street, Suite 350
Sacramento, CA 95814
p: 916.443.1749 | f: 916.443.3202
cwda.org

May 31, 2016

To: 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

From: Cathy Senderling-McDonald
Deputy Executive Director, County Welfare Directors Association

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

The County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA) respectfully requests 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 and families.

California is enmeshed in a housing affordability crisis that affects millions of families, including a significant percentage of families served by county human services agencies across the range of programs counties administer on the state's behalf. Many of our families live below or close to the poverty line, a measure that doesn't take into account the state's high cost of living. Housing instability makes it more difficult for our staff to help families get off of the CalWORKs cash assistance program and get children in foster care reunified with their families.

According to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) alone, 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. Los Angeles County also has provided data to the Legislature regarding the significant increase in homeless families receiving CalWORKs grants during and even after the recent recession, an issue other counties are experiencing as well.

This proposed measure would give counties additional flexibility to help in addressing the housing insecurity faced by so many Californians. As just an example, a one-half percent tax on personal income over \$1 million/year would be 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 tested was a tax on personal income above \$1 million/year, which was 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.

For all of these reasons, we support the Los Angeles County proposed trailer bill language and respectfully request your support for its inclusion in the final budget agreement.

cc: Gail Gronert, Office of the Assembly Speaker
Chris Woods, Office of the Assembly Speaker
Nicole Vazquez, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
Genevieve Morelos, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 4
Cyndi Hillery, Assembly Republican Fiscal
Joseph Shinstock, Assembly Republican Fiscal
Jennifer Troia, Office of the Senate President Pro Tempore
Craig Cornett, Office of the Senate President Pro Tempore
Mark Ibele, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 4
Theresa Pena, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3
Chantele Denny, Senate Republican Fiscal
Anthony Archie, Senate Republican Fiscal
Luan Huynh, Office of Senator Holly Mitchell
Will Lightbourne, Department of Social Services
Robert Smith, Department of Social Services
Michael Wilkening, Health and Human Services Agency
Amy Costa, Department of Finance
Jay Kapoor, Department of Finance
Justyn Howard, Department of Finance
Jason Sisney, Legislative Analyst's Office
Mark Newton, Legislative Analyst's Office
Farrah McDaid-Ting, California State Association of Counties
County Caucus