

August 17, 2016

Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr., Governor of California  
Honorable Anthony Rendon, Speaker of the California Assembly  
Honorable Kevin de León, President Pro Tem of the California Senate  
California State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Free the \$400 Million to House Californians in Need**

Dear Governor Brown, Speaker Rendon, and President Pro Tem de León:

We appreciate your recognition of California's unprecedented housing affordability and homelessness crisis and your efforts to begin to address it in this year's budget through the inclusion of the No Place Like Home initiative and the proposed \$400 million investment in critically needed affordable housing. Unfortunately, the decision to link that \$400 million to enactment of a controversial proposal to streamline market-rate housing development approvals has left the money stranded. With little time remaining in the Legislative session and no real prospect of a deal, we must ask you to release the funds.

**Please do not penalize our state's most vulnerable residents for the failure to reach agreement on the streamlining proposal.**

California leaders must not waste this rare opportunity to invest in readily available solutions while more families fall into poverty. As acknowledged by the Department of Housing and Community Development, our state is short more than 1.5 million homes for extremely low-income and very low-income households. To address this crisis now, we must make smart, targeted investments and lean on California's demonstrated success in lifting people and families out of poverty by building affordable places to live.

It is unacceptable to let another year go by without taking action to address the state's housing crisis. The funding was made available as part of the budget deal. It is now essential that we put it to work to benefit our state's most vulnerable families, seniors, and disabled residents.

There remains much to be done to ensure an adequate supply of safe, affordable housing for all Californians. We are committed to continuing to work with your offices in the next legislative session on additional measures to address these issues. However, the work still to come should not stop the state from taking action now. Approving \$400 million in one-time spending is a critical step in addressing the state's housing affordability crisis. We urge you to provide the leadership needed to make this desperately needed funding a reality.

Sincerely,

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Alliance of Californians for Community  
Empowerment

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California Calls

Rob Weiner  
California Coalition for Rural Housing

Brian Augusta  
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation

Ray Pearl  
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