

May 15, 2018



CALIFORNIA STATE
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

The Honorable Joaquin Arambula, M.D.
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
On Health and Human Services
State Capitol, Room 5155
Sacramento, CA 95814



URBAN COUNTIES OF
CALIFORNIA

Re: May Revision Proposal to Expedite the No Place Like Home Program – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Arambula:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), Urban Counties of California (UCC), County Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA), County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) and the County Health Executive Association of California (CHEAC) we write to express our SUPPORT I write to express our SUPPORT for the Governor's May Revision proposal to place the No Place Like Home (NPLH) program on the November statewide ballot for voter approval.



COUNTY BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH DIRECTORS
ASSOCIATION

Counties were closely involved in crafting the NPLH program, which diverts Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funding into a grant program to assist counties in building permanent supportive housing units for those living with severe mental illness. Not only was our Association pleased to support the NPLH implementing legislation in 2016, our members are now eager to access the potential grant funding for critically needed housing in our communities.



COUNTY WELFARE
DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

Since that time, the NPLH program has been held up in the courts. The use of a statewide ballot measure to affirm the use of MHSA funds in the NPLH program is an alternate way to proceed. By clarifying the use of MHSA funds for NPLH and expediting the application process through the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Governor's proposal will allow counties to access the funding more quickly.



COUNTY HEALTH
EXECUTIVE ASSOCIATION OF
CALIFORNIA

Our support for the Governor's proposal to place NPLH program on the ballot through the budget process comes with a single caveat: outside of authorizing the use of a portion of MHSA funding for the NPLH program, counties will strongly oppose any additional tweaks or changes to the MHSA during this process. This includes any changes to existing funding allocations, how that funding is directed, and how it is spent. Of course, counties continue to engage with and even sponsor a number of legislative vehicles to improve MHSA oversight and accountability at the state and county level. But any potential changes beyond the authorization of the NPLH program placed on the ballot will be met with unanimous county opposition.

Our members across the state are leveraging MHSA funding to provide critical mental health services, and the NPLH program gives counties an additional tool to help house people living with severe mental illness. For these reasons, we are pleased to SUPPORT the Governor's proposal to place the NPLH program on the November statewide ballot to allow the funding to flow to counties as quickly as possible. Should you have any questions about our position, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you.



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cc: Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
The Honorable Phil Ting, Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
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