STATE CAPITOL
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California Legislature

May 26, 2016

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Governor
State of California
California State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

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

Re: Los Angeles County Trailer Bill Proposal to Help Counties Combat Homelessness

Governor Brown, Speaker Rendon and President pro Tempore de León

We, the undersigned, **write in support of authorizing counties to seek voter approval to impose a special tax on personal incomes over $1 million dollars for purposes of providing housing and services for homeless individuals/families**.

The state of California possesses more than one-third of the nation's chronically homeless population. Within our state, Los Angeles and San Francisco are the epicenters of this crisis, with estimates of over 50,000 homeless in Los Angeles, and more homeless per square mile in San Francisco than any other city nationwide, excluding New York City.

The problem in Los Angeles County has led the Board of Supervisors to declare a state of emergency, after 12% increases over the last two years in both the city and county of Los Angeles. The number of tents, makeshift encampments and vehicles occupied by homeless people soared 85%, to 9,535, according to biennial figures from the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority. The Los Angeles Unified School District reports that approximately 9,000 school age pupils are homeless. Since 2013, there has been a 55% increase in the number of women experiencing homelessness and women make up 61% of the overall homeless population increase since 2013.

These numbers prompted the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to direct the County's Office of the Homeless Initiative to engage in hours of deliberations and public meetings for over nine months with community organizations, elected officials and a host of other stakeholders to develop a plan of action to address the growing homeless problem in Los Angeles County.

This plan included a survey of public opinions about revenue sources that voters may find appropriate, if given an opportunity to vote upon. Taxing personal incomes above $1 million polled at approximately 76% percent, and did not adversely affect the passage of an extension of Proposition 30. On May 17, 2016, the Board approved a motion to pursue budget trailer bill language to grant counties the authority to seek voter approval to impose a special tax on personal annual incomes above $1 million. This special tax would fund homeless services.

The level of homelessness in the state of California is quickly approaching pandemic levels and an unprecedented crisis deserves a thoughtful evaluation of extraordinary solutions. While Los Angeles County has proposed this bold new plan to significantly alleviate homelessness, the problem is not confined to Los Angeles and thus other counties should be afforded this self-help solution.

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Sincerely,

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S. M. Bradley-Thomas AD 54

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Senator Isadore Hall SD 35

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Ken McCarty AD-7

Adrian Nazarian AD 46

[illegible] AD 28

Kevin Mullin AD22

Rob Bonta AD 18

[illegible] AD25

Edward Gaines AD56

[illegible] AD 11

Tom Daly AD 69

[illegible] AD 37

Cheryl Brown AD 47

Miguel Santiago AD53

Mike A. AD64

Roger Hernández AD 48

Norm Campos AD 27

AD52

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Jim C. Cooley AD30

Allen Cooley AD 8