



CALIFORNIA COLLABORATIVE FOR LONG TERM SERVICES & SUPPORTS (CCLTSS)

April 25, 2017

The Honorable Ricardo Lara
Chair, Senate Committee on Appropriations
State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 2 (Atkins) Building Homes and Jobs Act – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Lara:

The California Collaborative for Long Term Services and Supports is a coalition of 32 statewide aging and disability organizations. We promote dignity and independence for people whose disability or chronic illness put them at risk of being forced to live in institutional settings. Our members represent consumers, providers, advocates, labor and insurers, and ultimately we speak on behalf of millions of California seniors and people with disabilities as well as the people who serve them.

We are writing to express our support for SB 2 (Atkins), which will build more affordable housing for these vulnerable populations.

The availability of low-income housing is insufficient and reaching a crisis level. On average, there are over 50 applicants waiting for each unit that becomes available. When seniors and disabled Californians cannot access affordable and accessible housing they are at high-risk for costly and unnecessary institutional care, negatively impacting the Medi-Cal program and the state budget.

This trend is becoming even more critical as our state's population ages. Today, almost 20 percent of Californians are over age 60 – a number expected to double in 40 years. With the increase in the size of California's senior population comes an increased demand for affordable housing.

The Building Homes and Jobs Act will:

- Create 29,000 jobs annually, primarily in the construction sector.
- Help businesses attract and retain the talent that fuels California's economy.
- Generate an estimated \$500 million in state investment and leverage an additional \$2.78 billion in federal, local, and private investment.
- Deploy these dollars throughout California using a successful private/public partnership model, creating jobs and generating revenue for local governments.
- Build safe and affordable apartments and single-family homes for Californians in need, including seniors and people with disabilities.

The Building Homes and Jobs Act is an ongoing funding source that increases California's supply of affordable homes, creates jobs, and spurs economic growth without incurring additional debt. With funds from successful state housing bonds running dry and the complete elimination of redevelopment, the availability of state dollars to leverage federal funds and private investment is the lowest it's been in years.

Failure to act now will leave too many Californians without an affordable home, and will result in costly institutional care for low-income seniors and people with disabilities.

We urge your support for SB 2.

Sincerely,



Laurel Mildred, MSW

For the California Collaborative

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cc: The Honorable Kevin de León, Senate President Pro Tempore
 The Honorable Patricia Bates, Senate Minority Leader
 The Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Appropriations