

April 19, 2022

The Honorable Buffy Wicks
Chair, Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee
1020 N Street, Room 156
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Assembly Bill 2211 (Ting) Shelter crisis: homeless shelters

Dear Chair Wicks,

On behalf of MidPen Housing Corporation, I am writing to express our support of AB 2211 (Ting). AB 2211 would help end California's unsheltered homelessness crisis by greatly reducing barriers to building new and expanding existing homeless shelters.

MidPen Housing is one of the nation's leading nonprofit developers, owners and managers of high-quality affordable housing and onsite resident services. Since MidPen was founded in 1970, we have developed over 100 communities and 8,000 homes for low-income families, seniors and those with supportive housing needs throughout Northern California.

As you know, California is currently experiencing an unprecedented homelessness crisis. California's high rate of homelessness is particularly tragic because the state provides homeless residents with fewer shelter options than any other state in the U.S. Between 2010 and 2020, California's unsheltered homeless population increased 57 percent, during which time California's inventory of emergency shelters increased just 6 percent. According to the most recent estimates, approximately half of all unsheltered Americans live in California. While the ultimate goal is to provide every Californian in need of a home with permanent housing, we can and must do more to increase interim housing.

Recent legislation (AB 932 and AB 2553) allows jurisdictions to declare a shelter crisis to speed approvals for new or expanded homeless shelters and navigation centers on public property. However, the opt-in nature of current law allows jurisdictions to continue rejecting the expansion of shelter. Additionally, current law does not include provisions for homeless shelters located on private property, which make up the majority of emergency shelters in the state. AB 2211 would strengthen existing law by:

- Removing the sunset date on the Shelter Crisis Act (AB 932);
- Declaring any local government in a shelter crisis if their population of unsheltered homeless to total homeless population is greater than the national average (outside of California);
- And extending shelter crisis provisions to shelters located on private property.



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These provisions, along with safeguards and standards to ensure shelters comply with certain prevailing regulations (building, fire, sanitation, occupancy, etc.), would be a powerful tool to helping California end the tragedy of unsheltered homelessness.

Thank you for your leadership and for considering our views.

Sincerely,

Matthew O. Franklin
President & CEO, MidPen Housing Corporation

cc:

Senator Mike McGuire
Senator Bill Dodd
Senator Jim Nielsen
Senator Steve Glazer
Senator Nancy Skinner
Senator Bob Wieckowski
Senator Scott Wiener
Senator Anna Caballero
Senator Josh Becker
Senator Dave Cortese
Senator John Laird
Assemblymember Marc Levine
Assemblymember Jim Frazier
Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan
Assemblymember Mia Bonta
Assemblymember Phil Ting
Assemblymember Bill Quirk
Assemblymember Kevin Mullin
Assemblymember Marc Berman
Assemblymember Alex Lee
Assemblymember Ash Kalra
Assemblymember Mark Stone
Assemblymember Robert Rivas
Nevada V. Merriman, Director of Policy, MidPen Housing