



The Kelsey



MidPen
HOUSING



April 15, 2026

The Honorable Catherine Stefani,
1020 O Street, Room 5220
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 2146 (Stefani) - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Stefani,

The undersigned organizations are pleased to support Assembly Bill 2146, which will expedite the housing referral process for people experiencing homelessness by removing unnecessary and burdensome documentation requirements related to housing history. This bill would also allow housing providers the option to source tenant referrals outside of the Coordinated Entry System (CES) or an equivalent referral system for units that have been vacant for 6 months.

In California, under SB 1380 (Mitchell, 2016), homeless applicants cannot be denied supportive housing due to poor or inconsistent housing history. However, state funding programs still require that applicants provide documentation related to their housing history, including third-party verification of homelessness, two years of rental history, and, in some cases, landlord or personal references. These programs often copy federal or other documentation requirement practices voluntarily, even though they are not legally required to. For applicants who have risen to the top of the CES queue due to the severity and chronicity of their situation, these burdensome documentation requirements only slow down the process of becoming housed.

CES is an important tool for creating equity and tracking data and outcomes; However, the capacity of CES organizations varies across the state, and in some places, these organizations are also underfunded, understaffed, and backlogged. This can lead to a small number of supportive housing units remaining vacant for over 6 months, creating delays for people experiencing homelessness.

AB 2146 would create a "Direct Access to Supportive Housing" (DASH) designation for non-federally funded affordable housing units to remove documentation requirements including housing history documentation, a third party verification of homelessness, or landlord referrals.

These requirements are incredibly burdensome for homeless populations to fulfill, so removing them allows less delays to access supportive housing. This bill also allows affordable housing developers to obtain tenant referrals beyond CES for units that have been vacant for over 6 months. This creates a backstop for the most problematic vacancies without undermining the important role of CES in prioritizing the most vulnerable Californians for housing. For all these reasons, our organizations are proud to support AB 2146. Thank you for authoring this important bill.

Sincerely,

The Undersigned



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