

January 23, 2019

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
 City Hall, Room 244
 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
 San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors:

We represent a broad range of the business community including tourism, hospitality, and healthcare in San Francisco who all want San Francisco to be the best city it can be. We are concerned about the situation on our streets and are looking to support individuals to receive the care that they need. We are writing to support SB 1045 and the local implementation ordinance sponsored by Mayor Breed and Supervisor Mandelman, co-sponsored by Supervisors Brown and Stefani (File Number 181042 - Housing Conservatorships). Implementation of SB 1045 will expand San Francisco's existing conservatorship program to serve individuals suffering from serious mental illness and substance use disorder, whose needs have been unmet by voluntary services including Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) and other support services.

The public health and humanitarian crisis playing out on our streets impacts all of us. Without adequate tools to intervene, people battling untreated mental illness and drug addiction will continue to deteriorate on sidewalks, in parks, and across our public spaces. The status quo is unacceptable to those who are left outside to suffer. Housing Conservatorships present a unique opportunity to bring stability to the lives of those who are unable to make decisions for themselves, keeping those who are conserved out of jail, off the streets, and focused on their path to health and well-being.

We believe firmly in the dignity and civil liberties of those who are struggling. But there is no dignity nor freedom in being left to die on the street. SB 1045 has strong due process protections in place to safeguard the rights of potential conservatees, including the right to a public defender, the right to a jury trial, and the right to contest or petition to terminate a conservatorship at any point in the process. These are important protections that will ensure Housing Conservatorships are effective, appropriate, and necessary.

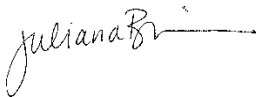
We understand that Housing Conservatorships aren't a complete solution, and will only serve a small number of people. We look forward to working with you to identify additional solutions to address the crisis on our streets. But San Francisco can't afford to pass up any tool to deliver services and care to the most vulnerable, who frequently cycle between the emergency room, psychiatric facilities, jail, and the street.

We live here, work here, and represent businesses that collectively employ tens of thousands of people who also live in this city. We believe that Housing Conservatorships will make a lasting, positive long-term impact in the lives of our neighbors most in need. We strongly urge you to support this ordinance. On behalf of those signed below, we thank you for considering this important step forward in addressing the crisis on our streets.

Sincerely,



Joe D'Alessandro | President and CEO, San Francisco Travel Association



Juliana Bunim | Interim Executive Director, San Francisco Chamber of Commerce



Kevin Carroll | President and CEO, Hotel Council of San Francisco



Gwyneth Borden | Executive Director, Golden Gate Restaurant Association



David Serrano Sewell | Regional Vice President, Hospital Council of Northern and Central California



Chris Wright | Executive Director, Committee on Jobs



Karin Flood | Executive Director, Union Square Business Improvement District



Tracy Everwine | Executive Director, Mid Market Community Benefit District



Cathy Maupin | Executive Director, Yerba Buena Community Benefit District



Ike Kwon | Chief Operating Officer and Head of Government Affairs, California Academy of Sciences