



May 17, 2021

President Shamann Walton and Members of the Board of Supervisors
c/o Angela Cavillo, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
San Francisco City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244

Re: Item # 20, [Urging Passage of California State Assembly Bill No. 816 (Chiu) - State and Local Agencies: Homelessness Plan]

Dear Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors,

BAFCA (Build Affordable Faster CA) is writing to urge the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to pass Resolution #210543, "Urging Passage of California State Assembly Bill No. 816 (Chiu) - State and Local Agencies: Homelessness Plan." AB 816 (Chiu) seeks to ensure that local governments and relevant state agencies are held accountable for addressing homelessness by requiring goal-based action plans subject to enforcement by the Inspector General.

Build Affordable Faster California (BAFCA) is a regional and state advocacy and action project of the Tenants and Owners Development Corporation (TODCO), a nonprofit community-based community development corporation in San Francisco's South of Market Neighborhood (SoMa) since 1971. We are committed to supporting legislation locally and statewide that creates pathways to more affordable housing and strengthens the safety net which supports the health, safety and well being of all Californians. We are committed to work with local and statewide governments to tackle our homelessness crisis.

In a statewide poll by David Binder Associates for BAFCA of likely voters released on Friday, a stunning 98% of Californians identify homelessness as as a serious crisis in the Golden State.

How serious do you think the problem of homelessness in California is today?

Very serious	83
Somewhat serious	15
Only slightly serious	1
Not serious at all	0
Don't know	1

Currently, state and local governments lack a mechanism to hold each other accountable for reducing homelessness and as there is not a clear and coordinated strategy for responding. City by city, local homeless and business advocates have litigated against jurisdictions for what they see as a dire lack of urgency and response to a homelessness crisis.

AB 816 creates a plan of action to reduce homelessness by 2029 and it does this by requiring each state and local governments to assess available resources and gaps in services to address homelessness and develop an actionable plan with benchmarks to reduce homelessness. This bill also creates the Office of the Housing and Homelessness Inspector General within the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) who monitors the implementation and progress of these state and local action plans and ensures that technical assistance is provided to state and local agencies to comply with actionable plans.

Finding solutions to homelessness is disproportionately falling on our central cities. While San Francisco is making some strides in tackling homelessness with 1,730 additional people in hotel rooms and up to 260 in sanctioned encampments as of April 2021, there are counties across our state that are far behind on their response to homelessness and some that are outright oppositional to local solutions. The bottom-line is the status quo is not working and homelessness must be addressed at a regional and statewide level. AB 816 will ensure that local governments and state agencies are accountable to collectively finding solutions to the homelessness crisis.

We urge you to pass Resolution #210543 and support AB 816 (Chiu). Should you have any questions regarding our support of this item, please don't hesitate to contact bobbi@todco.org or jjacobo@todco.org. Thank you for your kind consideration.

Respectfully,

Jon Jacobo
Director of Engagement and Policy

Bobbi Lopez
Director of Statewide and Regional Policy