

1 [Supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 328 (Chiu) - Reentry Housing Program]

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3 **Resolution supporting California Assembly Bill No. 328, authored by Assembly Member**
4 **David Chiu, and co-authored by Assembly Members Ash Kalra and Buffy Wicks, and**
5 **co-authored by Senator Scott Wiener, to establish the Reentry Housing Program.**

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7 WHEREAS, On January 27, 2021, Assembly Member David Chiu introduced California
8 State Assembly Bill No. 328 (AB 328), and co-authored by Assembly Members Ash Kalra and
9 Buffy Wicks, and co-authored by Senator Scott Wiener, to establish the Reentry Housing
10 Program by repurposing funding from the closure of state prisons to provide evidence-based
11 solutions to house people experiencing homelessness with histories of incarceration; and

12 WHEREAS, People on parole are seven times more likely to recidivate when homeless
13 than when housed; and

14 WHEREAS, Evidence shows that “supportive housing,” or housing that is affordable to
15 people on parole living in extreme poverty that does not limit length of stay and offers tenants
16 services promoting housing stability, reduces recidivism; and

17 WHEREAS, Data show that housing decreases recidivism rates by 60%, when
18 compared to control groups, and reduces rearrests by 40%; and

19 WHEREAS, About half of people experiencing homelessness report a history of
20 incarceration; and

21 WHEREAS, Formerly incarcerated people are 27 times more likely to be unstably
22 housed or homeless than the general public; and

23 WHEREAS, African Americans are almost seven times more likely to be homeless than
24 the general population in California, driven by systemic racism that includes disproportionate
25 incarceration, and discharges from prisons and jails into homelessness; and

1 WHEREAS, Projected population decline in California’s state prisons in the next few
2 years is expected to reduce future cost growth for the Department of Corrections and
3 Rehabilitation (CDCR) both through a reduction in incarcerated individuals and staff, as well
4 as the closure of two state facilities; and

5 WHEREAS, California’s incarcerated population is currently at about 94,000 compared
6 to 123,100 in February 2020, a number the California Legislative Analyst’s Office predicts will
7 hold steady for the next several years due to recent efforts to reform the criminal justice
8 system including Proposition 47 in 2014, Proposition 57 in 2016, and the COVID-19
9 pandemic; and

10 WHEREAS, In the short term, the CDCR will save several hundreds of millions of
11 dollars due to a decrease in incarcerated population, which decreases per person costs for
12 clothing, food, etc. and the closure of at least two state correctional facilities between 2021
13 and 2024 would yield savings in utilities, staffing, and equipment, as well as a reduction in the
14 incarcerated and ward population; and

15 WHEREAS, The California Legislative Analyst’s Office estimates \$1.5 billion in total
16 savings by 2025 as a result of these changes, freeing valuable resources that can be
17 repurposed for sustainable criminal justice solutions through the CDCR; and

18 WHEREAS, The California Department of Housing and Community Development, with
19 its expertise in overseeing grant programs for housing and services, and counties and
20 continuums of care, which often have experience providing housing and services to people
21 exiting incarceration, is an appropriate entity to administer programs offering evidence-based
22 housing and services interventions to people on parole experiencing homelessness; and

23 WHEREAS, AB 328 will determine protocols to prevent discharges from prison to
24 homelessness and establish guidelines to determine funding availability, five-year renewability
25 requests, and a scoring criteria for applicants in the program; and

1 WHEREAS, AB 328 will allow individuals in the program to use program funds for long-
2 term rental assistance in permanent housing, operating subsidies in affordable or supportive
3 housing units, housing incentives like security deposits and holding fees, assistance services
4 for accessing permanent supportive housing, and service providers offering health and
5 housing stability; and

6 WHEREAS, Participants in the Reentry Housing Program will have access to case
7 management services, parole discharge planning, other services like education and
8 employment services, benefit entitlement application and appeal assistance, transportation
9 assistance to access services, identification assistance, Medi-Cal funded mental health
10 treatment, substance use disorder treatment, and more based on the individual's specific
11 needs; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby supports California
13 Assembly Bill No. 328, Reentry Housing Program, and urges the California State Legislature
14 to pass this bill; and, be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby directs the Clerk of the
16 Board to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the California State Assembly and the California
17 State Senate as well as the Bill's primary sponsor, Assembly Member David Chiu.

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