

1 [Urging Passage of California State Assembly Bill No. 816 (Chiu) - State and Local Agencies:
2 Homelessness Plan]

3 **Resolution urging passage of California State Assembly Bill No. 816, authored by**
4 **Assembly Member David Chiu, to create a statewide planning process to reduce**
5 **homelessness by 90 percent by 2029 and to hold state and local governments**
6 **accountable for addressing homelessness.**

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8 WHEREAS, On any given night, over 150,000 Californians are homeless, 71% of
9 whom are unsheltered, representing the largest unsheltered population in the nation; and

10 WHEREAS, San Francisco’s 2019 Point-In-Time Count found over 8,000 people
11 experiencing homelessness, 5,180 of whom were unsheltered; and

12 WHEREAS, African Americans, comprising 6.5 percent of the overall population of
13 California, are disproportionately represented among California’s homeless population,
14 comprising almost 40 percent of the State’s homeless population; and

15 WHEREAS, African Americans, comprising less than five percent of the City’s overall
16 population, nonetheless comprise 37 percent of the City’s homeless population; and

17 WHEREAS, Even as Californians exit homelessness, more fall into homelessness
18 each year, with 150 people falling into homelessness in Los Angeles County for every 133
19 formerly homeless people housed, two people falling into homelessness in Oakland for each
20 formerly homeless person housed, and three people falling into homelessness in San
21 Francisco for each formerly homeless person housed; and

22 WHEREAS, In recent years, the State government has taken important steps and
23 allocated significant one-time investments to address homelessness, but there is still no
24 coordinated plan among state and local governments to tackle this issue; and

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1 WHEREAS, While many local governments have made significant investments to
2 address homelessness, others have taken no action and perpetuate myths about
3 homelessness that allow them to shirk responsibility altogether; and

4 WHEREAS, There is currently no legal requirement for local governments to take steps
5 to reduce homelessness in California; and

6 WHEREAS, State and local government at all levels should be held responsible for
7 responding to homelessness and providing permanent housing for people experiencing
8 homelessness; and

9 WHEREAS, In order to determine whether State and local jurisdictions are making the
10 best use of existing resources, and to determine the additional resources needed to
11 substantially reduce unsheltered homelessness in California, the State should work with local
12 communities to determine the appropriate roles of each level of governments; and

13 WHEREAS, To identify the types and levels of interventions the State currently provide,
14 and to arrive at the strategies that the State will pursue to solve homelessness, the State must
15 conduct a gaps analysis that includes an assessment of existing resources, gaps in
16 interventions needed to solve homelessness, and a financial analysis of the costs of filling
17 those gaps; and

18 WHEREAS, There are few other areas of important public policy where government
19 efforts to achieve a compelling societal objective are voluntary; and

20 WHEREAS, The State required the State’s utilities and public agencies to meet a
21 timetable for increasing their use of renewable energy, and the State is achieving dramatic
22 results; and

23 WHEREAS, Government at all levels should be obligated to spend existing resources
24 in the most efficient and expeditious manner to reduce homelessness; and

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1 WHEREAS, Assembly Bill No. 816 (AB 816), authored by Assembly Member David
2 Chiu (D-San Francisco) would require state and local governments to provide a thorough
3 analysis of existing homelessness programs and available resources and to identify the need
4 for additional housing and services; and

5 WHEREAS, AB 816 would further require state and local governments to develop
6 actionable plans to reduce homelessness by 90 percent by December 31, 2029, based on
7 realistic benchmarks and existing resources, and that include specific actions that will be
8 taken to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities among people experiencing homelessness by
9 2029; and

10 WHEREAS, The Department of Housing and Community Development would be
11 required to review and approve those plans; and

12 WHEREAS, To ensure accountability, AB 816 would establish a Housing and
13 Homelessness Inspector General that could take legal action against a state or local
14 government for failing to submit or follow a plan; and

15 WHEREAS, AB 816 ensures local governments are only held legally accountable for
16 what they are fiscally able to accomplish based on their level of existing resources; and

17 WHEREAS, The Corporation for Supportive Housing, Housing California, Sacramento
18 Mayor Darrell Steinberg, and the Steinberg Institute are cosponsors of AB 816; and

19 WHEREAS, The bill comes out of the work of Governor Gavin Newsom’s Council of
20 Regional Homeless Advisors, which in early 2020 proposed the creation of an enforceable,
21 results-based accountability mandate to end homelessness, since purely voluntary efforts by
22 a myriad of local and state agencies and billions of dollars of funding have failed without
23 accountability; and

24 WHEREAS, AB 816 would create a sorely-needed statewide plan to address
25 homelessness by establishing goals, metrics, accountability, and enforcement of progress

1 towards goals, holding government at all levels accountable to doing their part to end this
2 decades-long crisis; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
4 urges the passage of AB 816 to create a statewide planning process to reduce homelessness
5 by 90 percent by 2029 and hold state and local governments accountable to addressing
6 homelessness; and, be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
8 Francisco directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit copies of this Resolution to the State
9 Legislature and City Lobbyist upon passage.

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