April 19, 2022

The Honorable Buffy Wicks

California State Assembly

1021 O St, Ste. 4240

Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: ACA 14 (Wicks) The HOPE Act – SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Wicks:

On behalf of [YOUR ORGANIZATION], I am writing in support of the HOPE Act, ACA 14, which will establish a ten-year funding commitment to address the state’s affordable housing and homelessness crisis.

[ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION]

The pandemic has shown us all the essential role affordable housing plays in every California community — providing shelter, support, and community to some of the state’s most vulnerable populations, from seniors and veterans to teachers, firefighters, and many other hard-working families. California currently has a gap of 1.2 million homes affordable to lower-income households and on any given night, roughly 160,000 people in California experience homelessness. The Governor and Legislature have demonstrated their commitment to addressing the affordable housing and homelessness crisis time after time in recent years, using budget surpluses to support some of our state's most effective housing programs with much-needed, one-time investments. ACA 14 will build on these efforts—and provide a permanent, ongoing source of funding at the scale needed to close our state’s shameful gaps in affordable housing.

ACA 14 will dedicate five percent of the general fund for the next ten years to fund solutions to end homelessness and build affordable housing. Based on the 2022 budget revenues of $200 million, this investment would be approximately $10 billion each year. This constitutional modification explicitly protects existing constitutional budget commitments including funding for schools and the state’s Rainy Day Fund. Additionally, the Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency would be required to develop a ten-year investment strategy with outcome metrics to ensure that funding results in reduced homelessness and creates more affordable housing. A multi-year commitment of this scale will transform our state’s approach to addressing the needs of our most vulnerable residents.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

[MUST INCLUDE SIGNATURE]

[NAME]

[POSITION]

[ORGANIZATION]