



American Planning Association
California Chapter

Creating Great Communities

April 20, 2021

The Honorable David Chiu
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4112
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: **Concerns on AB 816 (Chiu) State and Local Agencies - Actionable Homelessness Plans**

Dear Assembly Member Chiu:

The American Planning Association, California Chapter, wishes to express concerns on your bill, AB 816, which would, among other things, require local governments to develop actionable homelessness plans and meet specified goals and reductions targets to reduce homelessness.

APA California fully agrees that a robust and comprehensive analysis of existing homelessness resources would help inform local governments and provide for more coordinated planning, including helping to focus state and scarce local resources on the programs that will be most effective in meeting the needs of those experiencing homelessness to meaningfully address the homeless crisis that California is disproportionately facing. Our organization also appreciates your tireless efforts to secure ongoing funding in the budget as it relates to dedicated funds for homeless prevention and mitigation. APA California is encouraged with the Governor's January proposed 2021-2022 budget and now the Senate Democrats proposal to provide for \$20 billion over the next five years to address the homeless crisis.

Comprehensively and quickly addressing the homeless crisis in California is needed, especially as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to heavily impact both homeless individuals and those desperately trying to hold on to their homes, all while reeling from the financial impacts of the pandemic. We support efforts to mitigate this crisis and provide better access to homeless prevention programs and housing, which the state already desperately needed, prior to the pandemic. At the same time, local governments have also been substantially impacted financially from the pandemic, which has created instability and deficits in local budgets. With resources scarce, APA California's concern lies in the fact that funding is not specifically identified in your bill to meet required benchmarks. That said, we are very hopeful that budget negotiations and Federal funds will ultimately be dedicated to support a comprehensive planning strategy for homelessness that AB 816 envisions.

We appreciate your efforts on this issue and while APA California remains concerned with the bill in print, we are hopeful as the bill moves and funding sources are more clearly identified, either through the budget or AB 816, APA California could move to a support position. If you have any questions, please contact Lauren De Valencia, lauren@stefangeorge.com, APA California's lobbyist.

Sincerely,

Eric Phillips
Vice President Policy and Legislation
APA California

cc:

Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee
Assembly Republican Caucus
The Governor
The Office of Planning and Research
The Department of Housing and Community Development

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