



American Planning Association
California Chapter

Creating Great Communities for All

March 29, 2024

The Honorable Chris Ward
California State Assembly
1021 O Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: AB 2694 (Ward) Density Bonus Law: residential care facilities for the elderly - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Ward:

The American Planning Association, California Chapter is pleased to support your AB 2694, which would expand the definition of a development for the above-described purposes to include a residential care facility for the elderly.

APA California is a non-profit organization made up of practicing planners, citizens and public officials committed to advancing the practice of local, regional, and statewide planning throughout urban, suburban, and rural California. As adopted in APA California's Legislative Platform, *Plan California*, our organization is supportive of efforts that minimize constraints to housing production and expanding the use of tools such as the state's Density Bonus Law (DBL)

Over the last several years California's DBL has proven to be a successful tool to provide more housing options for people of all income levels and for various housing types, including for senior housing developments. AB 2694 will simply expand the definition of a "senior housing development" to include a residential care facility for the elderly, as defined in Section 1569.2 of the Health and Safety Code. This change will provide more options to increase housing opportunities for California's aging housing population as the state continues to face a severe housing crisis.

We appreciate your dedication to this important issue, and for all the reasons listed above, are pleased to support AB 2694. If you have any questions, please contact our lobbyist, Lauren De Valencia, with Stefan/George Associates at lauren@stefangeorge.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'ED'.

Erik de Kok, AICP
Vice President Policy and Legislation
APA California

cc: Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee
Assembly Local Government Committee
The Governor
The Office of Planning and Research
The California Department of Housing and Community Development