



Catholic Charities

MARIN ♦ SAN FRANCISCO ♦ SAN MATEO

990 Eddy Street  
San Francisco, CA 94109

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CatholicCharitiesSF.org

The Honorable Senator Anthony Portantino  
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol, Room 412  
Sacramento, CA 95814

May 17, 2023

**Re: Support for SB 37 and SB 567 Housing Security Bills in the Legislature**

Dear Senator Portantino,

Thank you for your leadership and constant advocacy for policies that address the needs of the people of California during this critical time. I am writing to highlight another such issue: passing two critical housing security bills in the legislature.

- SB37 (Caballero): Older Adults & Adults with Disabilities Housing Stability Act
- SB567 (Durazo): Tenancy Homelessness Prevention Act

At Catholic Charities of San Francisco, Marin, and San Mateo Counties, affordable housing has remained a longstanding issue impacting residents of all socioeconomic status groups, often pricing middle-class residents out of the region and forcing them to relocate further away from their places of work. More specifically, housing affordability has a much larger impact on those in poverty, their families, and other vulnerable populations, such as older adults and adults with disabilities. These vulnerable populations, which often make up our client base, struggle to find affordable housing that meets their needs, while also providing them with safety and security. The frequent rise in rent prices often requires at-risk populations to relocate on a yearly basis, which may exacerbate the limited mobility experienced by older adults and adults with disabilities.

The impact of SB37 and SB567 would provide desperately needed subsidies and rent stabilization in one of the most highly-priced rental markets in the country. According to Axios, San Francisco's rent prices have increased by approximately 9.5 percent between the end of 2021 and January 2023, which is more than the nationwide average, despite recent declines.<sup>1</sup> The same article notes that average one-bedroom apartment in San Francisco costs \$3,000 a month. For context, a minimum wage employee making \$18.07/hour and working 40 hours a week makes a gross salary \$3,132 a month. These employees, older adults, and adults with disabilities are on the brink of a housing crisis and in critical need of support.

Therefore, on behalf of Catholic Charities, we urge you to support SB37 and SB567 to give these residents the rental assistance, pricing stability, and peace of mind that the housing and communities to which they are so accustomed are not at risk of being wiped out overnight.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ellen Hammerle  
Chief Executive Officer

Patrick Woody  
Chair, Public Interest Board Committee  
Catholic Charities

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.axios.com/local/san-francisco/2023/01/31/san-francisco-high-rent-apartments>; <https://www.zumper.com/blog/rental-price-data/>;  
[https://www.bls.gov/regions/west/news\\_release/consumerpriceindex\\_sanfrancisco.htm](https://www.bls.gov/regions/west/news_release/consumerpriceindex_sanfrancisco.htm)



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cc: The Honorable Maria Elena Durazo, Author, California State Senate  
The Honorable Anna Caballero, Author, California State Senate  
Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee:  
The Honorable Brian W. Jones, Vice Chair  
The Honorable Angelique V. Ashby  
The Honorable Steven Bradford  
The Honorable Kelly Seyarto  
The Honorable Aisha Wahab  
The Honorable Scott D. Wiener