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990 Eddy Street
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The Honorable Senator Anna Caballero
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 412
Sacramento, CA 95814

August 7, 2025

Re: Support for AB255, AB317, AB790, and SB350 to implement programs to improve access to housing, fight homelessness, and improve housing quality

Dear Senator Caballero,

On behalf of Catholic Charities San Francisco, I am writing to express my strong support for California Assembly Bill 255, Assembly Bill 317, Assembly Bill 790, and Senate Bill 350. These critical pieces of legislation will have a significant impact on many of the 70,000 individuals, families, children, and youth served by Catholic Charities annually in San Francisco, Marin, and San Mateo Counties.

- AB 255 intends to create a Supportive-Recovery Residence Program, which would provide a source of housing stability for those in substance abuse recovery. Research has shown that similar programs have led to higher odds of satisfactory discharge and longer treatment retention, compared to those without housing support. Program participants emphasized that structure, peer accountability, and emotional support.¹
- AB 317 creates programs to enable first-time homeowners to receive exemptions from certain regulations when building a new home. Research indicates a reduction in regulatory requirements can both reduce the cost of housing and increase the available supply available to prospective homeowners.²
- AB 790 creates a fund to support providing housing and services to single women with children who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. Similarly, SB 350 places limitations on the costs of water and wastewater services for low-income residents. Over 85 percent of families experiencing homelessness are led by single women, which reinforces the importance of these programs.³ Families who received utility assistance reported that those benefits helped them to remain housed.⁴

As a key partner in San Francisco's homelessness response, we operate Family Access Points in the Bayview and Mission neighborhoods, where families are assessed and connected through the City's ONE System to emergency shelter and transitional housing. Our St. Joseph's Family Center provides short-term housing for up

¹ <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8748296/>

² https://nationalhousingcrisis.org/app/uploads/2025/03/Land-Use-Permitting-Reform.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com

³ <https://tpcsinc.org/the-impact-of-homelessness-on-women-and-mothers/>

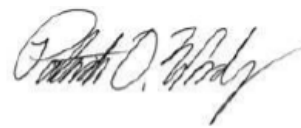
⁴ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1040619024000034>

to ten families at a time, offering a stable environment for three to six months while parents work to regain financial footing and keep their children enrolled in school. Securing permanent supportive housing for our clients remains a top priority, ensuring families not only exit homelessness but do so with lasting stability and dignity.

Kind regards,



Ellen Hammerle, Ph.D.
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Patrick Woody
Chair, Public Interest Board Committee
Catholic Charities

cc: The Honorable Matt Haney, Author, California State Assembly
The Honorable Corey Jackson, Author, California State Assembly
The Honorable Catherine Stefani, Principal Co-Author, California State Assembly
The Honorable Anamarie Ávila Farías, Author, California State Assembly
The Honorable Celeste Rodriguez, Co-Author, California State Assembly
Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee:
The Honorable Kelly Seyarto, Vice Chair
The Honorable Christopher Cabaldon
The Honorable Megan Dahle
The Honorable Tim Grayson
The Honorable Laura Richardson
The Honorable Aisha Wahab