



California Legislature

January 7, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
Chair, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
State Capitol, Room 5094
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Assemblymember Phil Ting
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: California's COVID-19 Renter Assistance Response to Prevent Evictions

Dear Chairpersons Skinner and Ting,

The undersigned legislators respectfully request the Senate and Assembly Budget Committees appropriate \$5 billion in unallocated funds for rental assistance to prevent evictions. As we continue to map out our response to COVID-19, California must make every effort to prevent tenants from eviction and homelessness.

The economic impacts of COVID-19 have left many without jobs and facing mounting debt. According to the Aspen Institute, approximately 4-5 million people will face eviction in California when eviction moratoria are lifted without immediate government assistance. In addition, California's homeless crisis continues to worsen, with over 151,000 people living unhoused. Evictions also pose significant health risks for residents. According to a recent study from the UCLA School of Public Health, states where eviction moratoriums were lifted led to an excess of 400,000 COVID-19 cases and over 10,000 deaths.

By utilizing resources of unallocated budget dollars at the state's disposal, California can launch immediate statewide funding to assist local programs for tenant assistance. Without an immediate funding investment, many renters will lose housing and become homeless. California must be ready to respond to this ongoing crisis with a comprehensive, sustainable path forward to prevent thousands from becoming homeless.

The situation is urgent. California's eviction protection law, AB 3088, is set to expire by the end of this month. It is crucial that we continue to provide eviction protections in conjunction with rental assistance. By establishing a needs-based formula that would provide funds to tenants through local government based on the jurisdiction's share of renters in arrears and vulnerability for eviction, California can begin to provide a solution to mounting renter debt and prevent increasing homelessness due to post-pandemic economic pressures.

We respectfully request the Senate and Assembly Budget Committees appropriate \$5 billion in unallocated funds to provide tenant assistance to prevent evictions and increasing homelessness.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Should you have any questions, please call Assemblymember Miguel Santiago's office at (916) 319-2053.

Sincerely,



Miguel Santiago
Assemblymember, 53rd District



Sabrina Cervantes
Assemblymember, 60th District



Ben Allen
Senator, 26th District



Jesse Gabriel
Assemblymember, 45th District



Tasha Boerner Horvath
Assemblymember, 76th District



Cristina Garcia
Assemblymember, 58th District



Wendy Carrillo
Assemblymember, 51st District



Mike A. Gipson
Assemblymember, 64th District



Lorena Gonzalez
Assemblymember, 80th District



Sharon Quirk-Silva
Assemblymember, 65th District



Ash Kalra
Assemblymember, 27th District



Freddie Rodriguez
Assemblymember, 52nd District



Sydney Kamlager
Assemblymember, 54th District



Henry Stern
Senator, 27th District



Alex Lee
Assemblymember, 25th District



Mark Stone
Assemblymember, 29th District



Monique Limón
Senator, 19th District



Buffy Wicks
Assemblymember, 15th District



Evan Low
Assemblymember, 28th District



Scott Wiener
Senator, 11th District

Cc: The Honorable Toni Atkins, President Pro Tem, California State Senate
The Honorable Anthony Rendon, Speaker, California State Assembly
Members, Assembly Budget Committee
Senators, Senate Budget Committee

MS: ml