

Date of Hearing: June 29, 2023

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
James Ramos, Chair
HR 46 (Ward) – As Introduced June 14, 2023

SUBJECT: Homeless Service Providers.

SUMMARY: Recognizes November 2023 as Homelessness Awareness Month; and, commends the invaluable service of our homeless service providers and their commitment to our shared mission to end homelessness. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) The homelessness crisis is a function of California’s housing crisis, and the most substantial challenge providers face is the severe lack of affordable housing.
- 2) More than 171,521 people are experiencing homelessness in California today, and our dedicated homeless service providers are working each day to help individuals and families end their episodes of homelessness.
- 3) Our homeless service providers are dedicated workers from public and nonprofit organizations driven by a mission to serve people and help our most vulnerable communities.
- 4) Providers deliver a range of supportive services directly to people experiencing homelessness who are unsheltered, including outreach, street medicine, food assistance, benefit enrollment, rapid rehousing, veteran programs, housing navigation, and many more. They deliver services and basic needs at both congregant and noncongregant interim housing sites, as the stability of a short stay in a safe environment will enable participants to secure affordable housing.
- 5) During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, providers were implementing innovative state programs, Project Roomkey and later Homekey, to keep our unhoused neighbors safe and healthy, proving that their staff members are essential workers.
- 6) California has increased investments to support workforce numbers; however, due to providers’ strained operating budgets and our general increases in costs of living, many of the dedicated staff of homeless service providers earn low wages and could be on the brink of homelessness themselves.
- 7) The dismaying increase of people experiencing homelessness in recent years has led providers to shift focus and resources towards prevention programs, targeting specific at-risk populations, such as seniors, people of color, women, youth, and LGBTQ+ individuals.
- 8) The state’s urgent mission of ending the homelessness crisis would be impossible without the resilience, compassion, and dedication of everyday Californians, and this recognition should encourage further action to improve the economic well-being of individuals dedicated to aiding the unhoused.
- 9) Homelessness Awareness Month is nationally recognized in the month of November to bring awareness to homelessness and related issues, including hunger awareness.

FISCAL EFFECT: None

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

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