



COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

Board of Supervisors

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March 27, 2018

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1921 (Maienschein) – CalWORKs: Housing Assistance
Set for Hearing April 4, 2018 in Assembly Appropriations Committee
SUPPORT: Per Board Action

Dear Assembly Member Gonzalez Fletcher:

On behalf of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, I am writing in support of Assembly Bill 1921 by Assembly Member Maienschein, which would make changes to temporary housing assistance for CalWORKs recipients.

As you know, homelessness continues to be a problem in our state and throughout the country. While often hidden, homelessness among families with children is at an all-time high. The California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program works to alleviate the problem of child homelessness by providing temporary and permanent housing assistance to families with children.

CalWORKs currently provides temporary housing assistance for 16 consecutive days during one year to homeless families with children. This means that any one instance of receiving temporary housing assistance, even if it is for less than 16 days in total, bars the family from receiving additional assistance for a year. This limit has unintended consequences, such as placing a homeless family in the difficult position of deciding whether to accept or forego an offer of temporary housing from family or friends or whether to pursue employment or housing opportunities in a different area of the state and risk losing eligibility for additional assistance should they become homeless again within the year.

Additionally, current law and regulations require CalWORKs recipients who are homeless and requesting permanent housing assistance to secure housing with a commercial establishment or a person in the business of renting properties. As a result, suitable shared-home living accommodations for families with children cannot be used to prevent or ameliorate homelessness among CalWORKs households.

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AB 1921 would remove the consecutive day requirement for temporary housing assistance and allow CalWORKs recipients to use permanent housing assistance payment towards shared housing. By making these changes, AB 1921 would increase options for our state's poorest families with children while also improving the effectiveness of the CalWORKs program's homelessness interventions.

For these reasons, the Riverside County Board of Supervisors supports AB 1921 and respectfully requests your "Aye" vote. If you have any questions about the County's position, please do not hesitate to contact our Deputy County Executive Officer, Brian Nestande at (951) 955-1110, bnestande@rivco.org.

Sincerely,



Chuck Washington
Chairman, Riverside County Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Brian Maienschien, Member, California State Assembly
Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Jennifer Swenson, Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Alex Khan, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
Riverside County Legislative Delegation