



MAYOR REX RICHARDSON

February 13, 2023

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Support for S. 24 (Feinstein)—Fighting Homelessness Through Services and Housing Act

Dear Senator Feinstein,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write in support of S. 24, the Fighting Homelessness Through Services and Housing Act. This legislation proposes to authorize \$1 billion annually for five years to fund supportive housing models that provide comprehensive services and intensive case management. The City is committed to working with all levels of government to provide the resources needed to house people experiencing homelessness. S. 24 aligns with the City's objectives to support upstream investments that create housing opportunities for people experiencing homelessness. The investments proposed in the Fighting Homelessness Through Services and Housing Act would help ensure that there are more federal resources to address homelessness in Long Beach.

The City has designated significant resources to address homelessness, adding more than 530 new interim housing units; opening the City's first year-round bridge housing facility; partnering with the County of Los Angeles to secure three hotels and convert them to safe and secure interim housing, along with the acquisition of another 78-bed hotel to be utilized as supportive housing for people experiencing homelessness; as well as the development and implementation of more than 30 modular shelter units. Despite the City's efforts, homelessness in Long Beach has increased by 77 percent since 2017, and there are approximately 3,300 people experiencing homelessness on any given day. Of the people experiencing homelessness in the City, more than 2,000 remain unsheltered, and there are few options for those currently without shelter. Temporary shelter is an important piece in the continuum of resources needed to prevent and end homelessness.

Additional funding is needed to expand supportive housing models and homeless services, as proposed by the Fighting Homelessness Through Services and Housing Act. Coordinated federal funds would provide local government entities with an opportunity to implement innovative solutions to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness maintain a successful transition to permanent housing.

Given these reasons, the City supports the Fighting Homelessness Through Services and Housing Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rex Richardson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mayor Rex Richardson
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Senator Alex Padilla
The Honorable Congressman Robert Garcia, 42nd District
The Honorable Congressman Nanette Barragan, 44th District