



# MAYOR REX RICHARDSON

June 1, 2023

The Honorable Pilar Schiavo  
California State Assembly  
1021 O Street, Suite 4140  
Sacramento, CA 94249

**RE: Support for AB 963 (Schiavo)—The End the Foster Care-to-Homelessness Pipeline Act**

Dear Assemblymember Schiavo,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write in support of AB 963 (Schiavo). This bill would allow the California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank to guarantee qualified loans for the construction, acquisition, and renovation of housing for current and former foster youth between the ages of 18 and 25. The City supports legislation and funding that directly addresses the root causes of homelessness.

In California, roughly 60,000 children are in the foster care system. The City's [2023 Homeless Point in Time Count Report](#) revealed that a leading cause of homelessness is family disruption. The point in time count found that many unhoused adults experienced adverse childhood experiences, including entering the foster care system. In the count, 19 percent indicated that they were former foster youth. Furthermore, respondents who identified as having experienced trauma during their childhood were 34 percent more likely to be chronically homeless than individuals without childhood trauma. AB 963 will expand the number of affordable housing units available to current and former foster youth struggling with housing security.

Stable housing is a critical social determinant of health. The proposed legislation will accelerate housing construction statewide while supporting current and former foster youth. For these reasons, the City supports AB 963.

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 Lena Gonzalez, State Senate, 33<sup>rd</sup> District  
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 65<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable Josh Lowenthal, State Assembly, 69<sup>th</sup> District