

CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE . BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

John A. Mirisch, Mayor

June 20, 2019

The Honorable Ted Lieu 403 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Re: H.R. 1978, Fighting Homelessness Through Services and Housing Act

City of Beverly Hills - SUPPORT

Dear Representative Lieu:

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I am pleased to share with you the City's support for H.R. 1978, the Fighting Homelessness Through Services and Housing Act. Your legislation represents a significant federal commitment in resources in addressing the multifaceted challenges posed by the crisis of individual and family homelessness.

With over 500,000 people experiencing homelessness in the nation and 53,000 persons experiencing homelessness on any given night in Los Angeles County, your legislative initiative is both timely and welcome. The causes of homelessness are often complex and vary from person to person. Your holistic approach coordinating federal, state, local and non-governmental resources and services may be the critical element that helps break the vicious cycle of homelessness, not just in LA County but in communities across the country.

We agree with your perspective that we need an "all-of-the-above" strategy that pairs stable housing with training, counselling and mental health services. If we stand any chances of successfully tackling this crisis, we must be able to provide comprehensive and intensive management care services paired with housing. By authorizing \$750 million annually for five years to fund supportive housing models, your bill is a step in the right direction. We also like your legislative provision to allow grants to be used for any combination of operations and capital building costs, as long as housing and services requirements are fulfilled. We also support your bill's focus on ensuring services must address issues including mental health conditions; education, job training and employment outcomes; and life skill classes.

A nation as prosperous as ours should make it a priority to help the most vulnerable in our society which, by its very definition, includes homeless veterans and families with children, individual with mental health and addictive conditions as well as people who fall through the cracks because they are unable to afford rent. We look forward to working with you to enact H.R. 1978.

Sincerely,

Sincerely

John A. Mirisch

Mayor, City of Beverly Hills