



MAYOR REX RICHARDSON

March 25, 2024

The Honorable Speaker Emeritus Anthony Rendon
California State Assembly
1020 N Street, Suite 367
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Miguel Santiago
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 6150
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 1948 (Rendon and Santiago)—Homeless Multidisciplinary Personnel Teams

Dear Speaker Emeritus Rendon and Assemblymember Santiago,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach (City), I write in support of AB 1948, which would permanently extend a pilot program that provides supportive services to Californians at high risk of becoming homeless.

In 2019, the Legislature passed a pilot program (AB 728 by Assemblymember Miguel Santiago) that authorizes several counties to develop homeless multidisciplinary teams. These teams allow different county agencies to share information in order to coordinate services for Californians identified as being at a higher risk of becoming homeless. This program is set to expire on January 1, 2025. AB 1948 would extend this key program, giving the pilot counties (Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Clara, and Ventura) the ability to continue to coordinate services for individuals at high risk of homelessness.

The City of Long Beach supports policies, legislation, and grants to reduce homelessness, including housing assistance and case management service funding related to mental health and substance abuse. The City's [2023 Point in Time Count Report](#) found that 3,447 people were experiencing homelessness on the morning of January 26, 2023, which represents a 4.6 percent increase from 2022. AB 1948 will enable county homeless multidisciplinary teams across the state to share information to provide higher quality care to people experiencing homelessness.

In Los Angeles County, these homelessness prevention efforts have proven effective; the County's Homeless Prevention Unit (HPU) pilot program has maintained an 88 percent housing retention rate for participants exiting its program. The data sharing authority has helped HPU staff connect with harder to reach clients, which has yielded higher success rates for client contactability. AB 1948 will indefinitely extend the availability of critical intervention and assistance, allowing counties to better serve Californians at high risk of becoming homeless.

For these reasons, the City supports AB 1948.

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, 33rd District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 65th District
The Honorable Josh Lowenthal, State Assembly, 69th District