

August 11, 2020

Governor Gavin Newsom
Senate President pro Tempore Toni Atkins
Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon
Senate Majority Leader Robert Hertzberg
Assembly Majority Leader Ian Calderon

We, the undersigned local elected officials across the state of California, write to express our strong support for Assembly Bill 1436 (Chiu) and its swift enactment.

Amidst the coronavirus pandemic and our state's crucial actions to stop its spread, millions of Californians have lost their jobs and don't know when, for how long, or whether they'll go back to work. Many of these households, through no fault of their own, have been unable to pay their rent and are at risk of losing their homes when the emergency procedural protections imposed by the courts in eviction cases are lifted.

It is critical for our state to enact comprehensive protections that help tenants avoid eviction for any nonpayment of rent during the coronavirus emergency. AB 1436 provides a path for renters and landlords to address unpaid rent while keeping tenants housed. The bill recognizes the scale and economic impact of the COVID-19 emergency by removing the threat of eviction for renters affected by the crisis while preserving the ability of landlords to recover unpaid rent and seek mortgage forbearance.

The looming wave of evictions—should action not be taken on AB 1436—impacts all of our communities. The long-term harms of housing instability and evictions are many: widespread debt, increasing homelessness, deepening disparities, and increased difficulty maintaining public health measures. What's more, any failure to protect renters from evictions stemming from the pandemic will exacerbate existing inequities based on race, ethnicity, national origin, immigration status, gender identity, disability, and other protected class statuses, thereby undermining California's recent legislative efforts to eradicate these divides.

We believe AB 1436 is a fundamental part of how California can recover from the COVID-19 emergency in a manner that balances the interests of renters, landlords, and the state. It maintains community stability and provides a path towards equitable economic recovery. Thank you for your consideration of this important piece of legislation and we look forward to working with you to secure its enactment.

Respectfully,

Director Aziz Akbari, Alameda County Water District

Councilmember Jose Moreno, City of Anaheim

Governing Board President Annemarie Randle-Trejo, Anaheim Union High School District

Trustee Al Jabbar, Anaheim Union High School District

Board President Dr. Jose Paolo Magcalas, Anaheim Elementary School Board

Trustee Juan Alvarez, Anaheim Elementary School Board

Councilwoman Monica Wilson, City of Antioch

Mayor Jesse Arreguin, City of Berkeley

City Councilmember Ben Bartlett, City of Berkeley

City Councilmember Kate Harrison, City of Berkeley

City Councilmember Rigel Robinson, City of Berkeley

Rent Stabilization Board Commissioner Igor Tregub, City of Berkeley

Councilmember Jacques Bertrand, City of Capitola

Councilmember Megan Beaman Jacinto, City of Coachella

Vice Mayor Alex Fisch, City of Culver City

Council Member Daniel Lee, City of Culver City

Council Member Meghan Sahli-Wells, City of Culver City

Councilmember Thomas Aujero Small, City of Culver City

Governing Board Member Kelly Kent, Culver City Unified School District

Council Member Bryan Osorio, City of Delano

Councilmember Gabriel Quinto, City of El Cerrito

Council Member Sara Lamnin, City of Hayward

Mayor Pro Tempore Paloma Aguirre, City of Imperial Beach

Assistant City Council President Pro Tempore David Ryu, City of Los Angeles

Councilmember Mike Bonin, City of Los Angeles

Councilmember Paul Koretz, City of Los Angeles

Councilmember Andrew Lewis, North Westwood Neighborhood Council

President Jonathan Wright, Martinez Unified School Board

Councilmember Nikki Fortunato Bas, City of Oakland

Mayor Geoffrey Kors, City of Palm Springs
Mayor Pro Tem Christy Gilbert Holstege, City of Palm Springs

Councilmember Shanelle Scales-Preston, City of Pittsburg

City Council Member Eduardo Martínez, City of Richmond

Trustee Basim Elkarra, Twin Rivers Unified School District, Sacramento

Board President Alicia Munoz, San Diego County Board of Education
Vice President Richard Barrera, San Diego Unified School District
Board Member Mary Graham, San Diego Community College District
Board Member Bernie Rhinerson, San Diego Community College District

Supervisor Sandra Lee Fewer, City and County of San Francisco
Supervisor Gordon Mar, City and County of San Francisco
Supervisor Shamann Walton, City and County of San Francisco
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Board President Noelia Corzo, San Mateo-Foster City School District

Mayor Kevin McKeown, City of Santa Monica

Mayor Michael Tubbs, City of Stockton

Mayor Lindsey Horvath, City of West Hollywood