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March 21, 2020

Ms. Keely Martin Bosler, Director
Department of Finance
Room 1145, State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Ms. Bosler:

In a letter dated March 18, 2020, you notified the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, pursuant to Section 36.00, Chapter 2, Statutes of 2020, of your intention to augment the Budget Act to assist local governments in protecting the health and safety of homeless populations and reducing the spread of the COVID-19 outbreak. Specifically, Item 0515-101-0001 is augmented by \$100,000,000 for the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency to help local governments invest in COVID-19 prevention and containment efforts. In addition, Item 5180-151-0001 is augmented by \$50,000,000 for the state Department of Social Service to assist local agencies responding to the COVID-19 crisis with resources to address immediate housing needs for the homeless.

Given the severity of the COVID-19 crisis, I concur with the spending request but want to take this opportunity to urge the Administration to ensure that plans are in place to assist those who are provided housing with these emergency funds with long-term housing solutions, rather than allowing them to simply fall back into homelessness. Members of the committee feel this issue should be considered in future Budget Acts, along with the proper role of the state, cities, counties, and Continuums of Care in future responses to homelessness.

Sincerely,



Holly J. Mitchell
Chair

cc: Members of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee

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