



# PRESS RELEASE

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## CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AGENCIES ANNOUNCES SUPPORT FOR PROPOSITION 2

SACRAMENTO, Calif. - The California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies (CBHA) and its Board of Directors announced its formal support and endorsement of Proposition 2.

Proposition 2 will authorize the state of California to use revenue from Proposition 63 (2004) also known as the Mental Health Services Act, to leverage existing state funds to build supportive housing connected to mental health services and addiction treatment for people living with a serious mental illness who are homeless or at a great risk for becoming homeless.

"Decades of research shows that providing people with a stable place to live along with behavioral health services promotes healthy, stable lives. This approach, known as permanent supportive housing, provides intensive coordinated care that includes mental health and addiction services, medical treatment, case managers, education and job training within a community housing setting," said Paul Curtis, Executive Director of CBHA. "CBHA has been a strong supporter of mental health and behavioral health initiatives, including the original No Place Like Home legislation signed into law in 2016. Housing is a crucial necessity for people living with serious mental illness who desire to lead a more healthy and productive life. By providing housing with connected services, we can provide much needed stability and treatment to a highly vulnerable and underserved population."

Prop 2 will use up to \$2 billion in previously authorized bonds to finance No Place Like Home Program, an already existing law that funds permanent supportive housing for individuals with mental illness who are homeless or at risk for chronic homelessness. Prop 2 also amends the Mental Health Services Act to authorize transfers of up to \$140 million annually from the existing Mental Health Services Fund to the No Place Like Home Program, with no increase in taxes.

"Homelessness has reached a crisis point in California, as housing unaffordability and other contributing factors force people out of their homes and onto the streets," said Chris Stoner Mertz, Board President of CBHA and CEO of Lincoln, a nonprofit agency in Oakland, CA. "Without the stability provided by permanent and supportive housing, people with significant mental health needs are unable to access the resources they need."

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