



County Executive
David Villanueva

Governmental Relations and
Legislative Officer
Elisia De Bord

County of Sacramento

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March 28, 2025

Assemblymember Mia Bonta, Chair
Assembly Committee on Health
1020 N Street, Suite 390
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 804 (Wicks and Stefani). Health Care Coverage: Emergency
Medical Services.
Support
Hearing: April 8, 2025

Dear Chair Bonta:

On behalf of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, I write to support AB 804 (Wicks), which would require the Department of Healthcare Services to seek federal approval to make housing support services a Medi-Cal benefit.

Homelessness dramatically impacts health outcomes, costs, and access to care. Health costs for Medicaid beneficiaries experiencing chronic homelessness can add up to over \$100,000 in one year. Despite this high spending, people experiencing chronic homelessness die, on average, 25-30 years younger than housed people with similar health conditions.

Studies show housing support services help people access housing and health stability and meaningful care. These services include the following:

- Housing transition & navigation services to connect people to housing;
- Housing deposits to help people access a place to live, such as security deposits; and
- Housing tenancy and sustaining services to help people maintain leases, connect to community supports they need, and gain employment if able to work.

Currently, Medi-Cal plans can choose to provide housing support services as a Community Support, resulting in different eligibility requirements and standards, even in the same county. A statewide Medi-Cal benefit would be more equitable and available to Medi-Cal enrollees who are experiencing homelessness. A benefit would allow California to scale up provision of services and make services available for as long as the enrollee needs the services. A benefit would allow California to take advantage of a federal match of up to 90% (for the expansion population).

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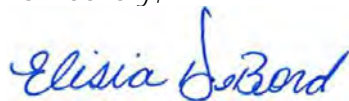
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In 2021, DHCS [shared an intent](#) is to make housing support services a Medi-Cal benefit for Californians experiencing homelessness. Since then, DHCS has made significant investment to build a statewide network of providers with capacity to offer culturally competent housing support services.

As a next step toward offering meaningful, person-centered health care to people experiencing homelessness, AB 804 (Wicks and Stefani) would require DHCS to seek federal approval for a Medi-Cal housing support services benefit in 2026 for 2027 effective date. Setting a deadline will drive plans to develop their capacity and providers to participate, improve health outcomes among Californians experiencing homelessness, reduce homelessness, standardize eligibility, and draw down millions of federal dollars that we are currently not accessing.

For these reasons, Sacramento County supports AB 804. Please feel free to contact me at (916) 874-4627 or deborde@saccounty.gov.

Sincerely,



Elisia De Bord

Governmental Relations and Legislative Officer

cc: Honorable Buffy Wicks, Assembly Member
Honorable Catherine Stefani, Assembly Member
Sacramento County Delegation
Sacramento County Board of Supervisors
Audrey Ratajczak, Cruz Strategies