

County Executive
David Villanueva

Governmental Relations and
Legislative Officer
Elisia De Bord



County of Sacramento

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June 25, 2025

The Honorable Matt Haney, Chair
Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 5740
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 802 (Ashby). Sacramento Area Housing and Homelessness Agency:
Multifamily Housing Program: Homekey: Homeless Housing, Assistance, and
Prevention program.
Oppose (As introduced June 24, 2025)
Hearing: July 2, 2025**

Dear Chair Haney:

On behalf of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, I respectfully write to oppose SB 820 (Ashby). This bill dismantles current homelessness and housing practices that are taking flight, takes funding from local jurisdictions, and removes decision-making authority from our Board and their regional partners.

SB 802 was introduced less than 24 hours ago; therefore, County officials have not had adequate time to fully analyze this measure. A bill of this magnitude on the serious topic of homelessness should not be done in haste or introduced by surprise.

The County values partnerships, collaboration, and shared responsibility as evidenced by our success in addressing the needs of the unhoused in our region. In just the last two years, Sacramento County blended State funding and a variety of local and federal funding sources to:

- Successfully launch three Safe Stay Shelter Communities adding 356 new beds that include intensive, wrap around behavioral health services in non-congregate setting. An additional site that will include 225 beds is currently under construction, to open early 2026.
- Expand outreach in the unincorporated County and along the Parkway from a team of 3.5 staff to 23 contracted staff along with County social workers and County behavioral health clinicians and peers who provide proactive encampment response, respond to crisis calls alongside law enforcement and offer an "office hour" approach to outreach to serve the suburban parts of the County.

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- Lead the development and expansion of rehousing programs, providing one-time housing funds and on-going rental subsidies to both prevent families from becoming homeless and quickly re-housing them. We are currently working with all four Managed Care Plans to support implementation of a "Flex Housing Pool" to integrate Medi-Cal transitional rent benefits into these programs and creating a consolidated landlord network.

SB 802 disrupts this good work that is on an upward trajectory to giving our very cared-for community members a strong foundation to succeed. As mentioned in our meeting with Senator Ashby on May 22, 2025, the County is also working on the best governance model for our region, which is scheduled for a public hearing in August so that all voices can be heard and considered. In the spirit of partnership and collaboration, we ask that the Senator reconsider her proposal by working with the jurisdictions who take care of the community members on the streets, face-to-face, day and night.

For these reasons, Sacramento County opposes SB 802. Please feel free to contact me at (916) 874-4627 or deborde@saccounty.gov.

Respectfully,



Elisia De Bord
Governmental Relations and Legislative Officer

cc: The Honorable Angelique Ashby
Members, Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee
Sacramento County Delegation
Chair and Members, Board of Supervisors
Audrey Ratajczak, Cruz Strategies