

PROPOSITION 2: AUTHORIZE BONDS TO FUND EXISTING HOUSING PROGRAM FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

POSITION: The Chamber's Public Policy Committee voted to SUPPORT the proposition on September 11, 2018.

RATIONALE: Housing stability and mental health are linked for certain homeless populations and it makes sense to link the resources dedicated to solving homelessness.

STATUS: Proposition 2 is the result of AB 1827, the No Place Like Home Act of 2018, a bill from the Assembly Budget Committee that was voted on by the legislature, referring the bill to the ballot as a proposition.

SUMMARY

Proposition 2 amends the Mental Health Services Act, passed by the electorate, to fund mental health programming throughout the state, to also provide up to \$140 million by depositing funds into the Supportive Housing Program Subaccount. This bill does not increase taxes or otherwise create additional revenue sources, and instead shifts mental health funds to provide for permanent supporting housing with the understanding that housing and mental health wellness are linked.

INDUSTRY/IES IMPACTED

The industries impacted include organizations in affordable housing and social serving agencies focused on mental illness.

SUPPORTERS

- Mental Health America of California
- California Police Chiefs Association
- Chan Zuckerberg Advocacy
- Senator Toni Atkins

OPPONENTS

- NAMI Contra Costa

ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR

According to the ballot argument in support of Proposition 2, the measure would "help establish and strengthen partnerships between doctors, law enforcement, mental health and homeless service providers to help ensure care is coordinated and tailored to meet the needs of each person suffering from mental illness and homelessness, or who is at great risk of becoming homeless."

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION

According to the ballot argument against Proposition 2, "please vote No on the No Place Like Home Act, which should have been called the 'Bureaucrat and Developer Enrichment Act,' because that is who we feel will most benefit at the expense of those suffering with the most severe mental illness."

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The MHSA was established in 2004 through a vote of the public, imposing a one percent income tax on individuals earning more than \$1 million annually. The No Place Like Home Act was established in 2016, requiring the Department of Housing and Community Development to provide \$2 billion to counties for permanent supportive housing for the homeless, and includes additional reporting and validation processes. As local jurisdictions throughout the state struggle to address the homeless population, it has become apparent that the intersection between mental health, early interventions and housing stability is an important nexus whereby policy makers may be able to make a positive impact on the most vulnerable populations.

