

May 6, 2014

Coalition for Veterans Housing – Yes on Prop. 41  
777 S. Figueroa St., Suite 4050  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

**RE: Proposition 41 – SUPPORT**

Dear Sirs:

On behalf of Monterey County I write to express our strong support for Proposition 41 – The Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention Bond Act of 2014. Proposition 41 authorizes \$600 million in general obligation bonds for affordable multifamily supportive housing to relieve homelessness, affordable transitional housing, affordable rental housing, or related facilities for veterans and their families.

California has the largest veteran population in the United States, with almost two million veterans calling California home—a number that is expected to rise by over 200,000 when the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq wind down. California also has more homeless veterans than any other state, with 25% of homeless veterans in the nation residing in the state.

The most significant cause of homelessness among veterans is the exorbitant cost of housing in California coupled with the low incomes among veterans. By providing veterans a safe and affordable place to live dramatically reduces local and state costs including health care, incarceration, and other crisis services. Additionally, through the construction of housing for veterans in need, the state would be creating jobs and generating revenue for the state coffers.

Veterans returning from theaters of combat come home only to face new challenges. They often face difficulties reintegrating into civilian life, changes family dynamics, gaining employment, and dealing with disabilities like traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress. Veterans from other wars, conflicts, and peacetime services may also experience challenges.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that more than 22,000 veterans reside in Monterey County. The 2011 Monterey County Homeless Census found that 13% of homeless individuals over the age of 18 surveyed were veterans. Applying this percent to the estimated 3,472 homeless identified in the County yields an estimate of approximately 450 homeless veterans in our community – 450 too many.

Proposition 41 is a critical issue for not only the large veterans community in Monterey County but to the thousands of homeless or near-homeless service members statewide, and we look forward to working with your organization on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Louis R. Calcagno  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Bill Monning  
The Honorable Anthony Cannella  
The Honorable Luis Alejo  
The Honorable Mark Stone  
Monterey County Board of Supervisors  
Lew C. Bauman, CAO, Monterey County  
Nicholas E. Chiulos, Assistant CAO, Monterey County  
Elliott Robinson, Director of Social Services, Monterey County  
George Dixon, Military & Veterans Affairs, Monterey County  
Charles J. McKee, County Counsel, Monterey County  
Clerk of the Board, Monterey County  
California State Association of Counties  
Sid Williams, Chairperson, Monterey County Military & Veterans Affairs Advisory Commission  
James Bogan, President, United Veterans Council – Monterey County  
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