

California Legislature

July 25, 2018

Director Ben Metcalf
California Department of Housing & Community Development
2020 West El Camino Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95833

Dear Director Metcalf:

We are writing to strongly urge you to help protect California's seniors by taking the opportunity provided by the historic housing package adopted last year to help support the expansion of funding for affordable and low-income senior housing.

The availability of low-and moderate-income housing for older adults is reaching a crisis level. Americans are living longer than ever. Two-thirds of the people throughout history who have reached age 65 are alive right now and the number of Californians age 85 and older is expected to double by 2030. Older adult households are more likely than their younger counterparts to spend more than 30% of their income on housing, leaving many seniors to choose between shelter and other necessities such as food and healthcare.

Affordable senior housing stock is already insufficient; on average, 50 applicants are waiting for a unit to become available. Affordable housing for seniors allows seniors to age in place, can increase independence and provide access to community based services such as transportation and meal programs.

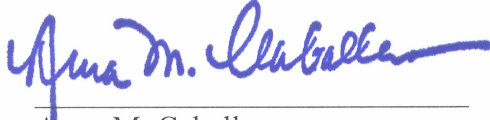
The housing package we passed last year is a huge opportunity to provide vital financial resources as well as establish and streamline critical regulations to achieve the important goal of making more homes affordable for Californians. We urge you to protect California's seniors when implementing this historic housing package and specifically look to opportunities to expand access to affordable and low-income senior housing.

We believe that housing is healthcare, especially for our older adults who are among the highest utilizers of our health care systems. We cannot adequately care for our aging population without safe, supportive housing where seniors can age at home and receive the care and services they need.

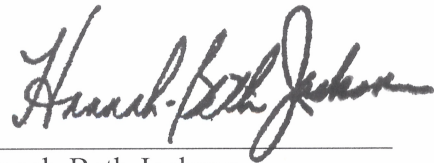
Sincerely,



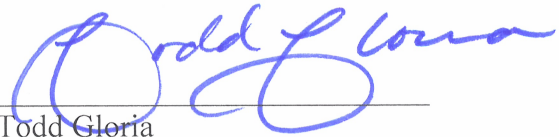
Ash Kalra
Assembly District 27



Anna M. Caballero
Assembly District 30



Hannah-Beth Jackson
Senate District 19



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Assembly District 78