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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nonprofit Providers Call on Legislative Leaders to Keep Their \$400 Million Commitment to Affordable Housing

Sacramento, CA – Last week, Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon declared dead a deal to provide over \$400 million in affordable housing funding. Despite strong support from the Legislature, the Governor's insistence that housing funding come with "strings attached" through a controversial "by-right" proposal is a disservice to the thousands of Californians seeking housing.

"Without sufficient affordable housing, the financial impact to California's budget will become dire as our state's aging population balloons," said Jeannee Parker Martin, President & CEO of LeadingAge California. "Affordable senior housing communities keep people out of the hospital and away from costly medical settings. In fact, service enriched housing has proven to advance the well-being of their residents by keeping them actively engaged in their communities. We can and must do better to fund affordable housing in our state."

Seniors are particularly vulnerable to increases in housing costs because many are on fixed incomes. Social Security payments have been stagnant for years and have not kept up with California's high housing costs. This situation will only grow worse with time. Already the most rent-burdened in the nation, California accounts for twenty (20) percent of the nation's homeless population, with an average age of 55 years. In a little more than ten years, these individuals will be seniors and will comprise the bulk of our homeless population.

"We cannot afford to ignore this problem any longer, which is why we are asking the Governor and the Legislature to release the \$400 million that has been set-aside to fund housing programs," said Meghan Rose, LeadingAge California's Director of Policy.

Last year, Governor Brown vetoed two bills that had bi-partisan support and would have expanded California's Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program, leading to the development of more affordable housing in California, and for the past two years, he has elected to not fund California's Multifamily Housing Program.

About LeadingAge California

The representative of the continuum of care and a steward of the nonprofit mission, LeadingAge California remains on the forefront of issues faced by its diverse membership. Our 400+ members deliver housing, care and services to approximately 100,000 older Californians every day. Our membership includes providers of affordable senior housing, skilled nursing, residential and continuing care, as well as home and community-based care.

A large, stylized graphic of the LeadingAge California heart logo, rendered in a light green color, positioned behind the text.

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