



**RE: Support Housing Support Rate Increase**

Dear Chairs Leibling, Schultz, Benson and Abeler,

Housing support is one of the state's most essential tools in moving people experiencing homelessness, especially unsheltered, to housing with services. As a disability program, it allows providers to meet the needs of people facing substance abuse and long-term mental health issues either in project-based or scattered-site housing in the private rental market.

Providers are stretched to meet the needs of these clients on the current monthly room and board rate of \$934. This rate not only pays the residents rent, but it also pays for utilities, laundry, transportation, and telephone costs --and many other living expenses that the provider carries as part of "room and board."

**Please support the increase to the House Support monthly room and board rates by \$100 per month included in the Senate Bill. (Article 13, sec. 50 f / SF2360, 493.13-493.17)**

As Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, we operate over 600 homes, many of them supportive housing for people transitioning out of homelessness, and utilize this vital tool. We currently have and in development over 400 housing support units in our project-based settings. An increase in the housing support rate will allow Beacon and others to provide these essential services to more individuals and families transitioning from homelessness.

Please support this rate increase.

Thank you,

Ben Helvick Anderson  
Director of Public Policy  
Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative