

September 7, 2026
Governor Gavin Newsom
1303 10th St., Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: Requesting signature on AB 1573 (Bryan)

Dear Governor Newsom,

I, Ashley Bautista, write in strong support of AB 1573 (Bryan). This would include survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking, and sexual assault as a part of the target population in all cities and counties required housing element. For 1 in 5 unhoused women in California, domestic violence is a precursor to homelessness. Californians with a history of homelessness were 3x more likely than those without to report sexual violence (20% vs 7%). The Polaris National Survivor Survey found that 64 percent reported experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity at some point during childhood.

Today, city and county assessments of supportive housing services do not consider these vulnerable populations. This bill will ensure that local jurisdictions do their due diligence when formulating their housing element within their general plan to include survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking, and sexual assault, allowing for urgently needed housing protection and support while strengthening communities and reducing homelessness.

As a social worker I advocate for those who are displaced from their homes and hope that you understand how detrimental it is for anyone to lose their home and belongings. As someone who has also faced homelessness it can also cause physical and emotional stress on someone who may already be having a hard time looking for housing.

According to the Homeless Data Integration System (HDIS) Homeless Equity for Left Behind Populations (HELP) Act Dashboard, it takes survivors in California three weeks longer to be housed on average as compared to the general population experiencing homelessness. Survivors are also matched to permanent supportive housing at a reduced rate and fall back into homelessness at a higher rate.

In California, cities and counties are expected to develop a General Plan that serves as a blueprint for future development. Each plan consists of chapters, which are called "elements." The housing chapter or element includes an analysis of various forms of special housing, emergency shelter, and supportive housing needs for a particular city or county.

The definition for the target population was placed in the Housing Element Law in 2014. The target population in existing law includes low-income people, veterans, people with

developmental and physical disabilities, those with mental illness, chronic health conditions like HIV or AIDS, elderly persons, young adults aging out of the foster care system, individuals exiting from institutional settings, and homeless people.

While survivors may also be included within other groups listed under target populations, survivors experience homelessness longer, are matched to permanent supportive housing at a reduced rate and fall back into homelessness at a higher rate. Federal requirements also mean survivors are not included in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) used by continuums of care to connect people experiencing homelessness to housing; this creates systemic barriers to housing for survivors and necessitates additional attention to their needs. Unless we proactively plan for the needs of survivors, they will continue to be underserved by our systems.

AB 1573 remedies this by ensuring that survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking, and sexual assault are included in the definition of the target populations in the assessment of supportive housing in a city's or county's general plan. This legislation would move California toward a more inclusive housing framework and affirms that these populations have unique needs that need to be better understood and planned for. In doing so, AB 1573 will uphold California's commitment to supporting survivors in rebuilding their lives while strengthening the health, safety, and resilience of communities statewide.

For these reasons, I am proud to support AB 1573 (Bryan).

Sincerely,

Ashley Bautista
Social Worker
San Francisco, CA 94132