

Thank you for reaching out to SF City officials on behalf of Open Door Legal and low-income residents of San Francisco across the city. General civil legal services are a vital part of preventing homelessness, and we are using our voices to come together to ask MOHCD to restore this line of funding.

You can use this template to reach out to your supervisor, but can also reach out to any elected official. We encourage you to consider also submitting a written comment at this [online form](#) which will go directly to MOHCD, and consider also emailing the Mayor's Office, where the Mayor's staff will read any communications: daniel.lurie@sfgov.org

Hello Supervisor [REDACTED],

My name is [REDACTED], and I am writing as a resident of District [REDACTED]. I am also writing as a congregant of City Church San Francisco, on behalf of our church's partner Open Door Legal. Open Door Legal is a vital organization that has proven to reduce poverty and homelessness by providing free legal services to the most vulnerable members of our community.

This week, we learned that **the line item which supports General Civil Legal Services at MOHCD was completely cut**. This is Open Door Legal's largest funding source and they had no warning that this was even a possibility. As supporters of their crucial work on behalf of those most in need in San Francisco, we are dismayed by this proposal.

Open Door Legal's work prevents homelessness at the source. Cutting funding for legal services – services that provide help for our low-income neighbors who are often just a single paycheck away from losing housing – will only require increased funding down the road for shelter and emergency services. This is short-sighted and an actively counter-productive use of our city's resources: it not only fails our vulnerable residents, but works against our city's stated priorities of reducing homelessness and poverty.

As it stands, this is a draft proposal from MOHCD, so I and my fellow congregants are **writing to ask you to make every effort to restore this line item**.

If this cut goes through, Open Door Legal will be forced to shutter at least one of their community offices, conduct significant layoffs, and will be unable to help at least 900 more San Franciscans, along with their family members, on an annual basis. ODL estimates that at least \$10 million will be lost by low-income San Franciscans each year due to lack of civil legal representation, and that homelessness will rise by 4% per year.

One of Open Door Legal's mantras is "the law belongs to everyone." I urge you to help make that true in San Francisco and advocate for MOHCD to restore this funding to help the people in our city who need it most.

Thank you,

NAME

Phone Number, if you are open to having them call you