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DATE

The Honorable Senator Thomas Umberg
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 3240
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 916 (ASHBY) STUDENT HOUSING PROTECTION ACT – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Umberg,

[Organization name] is pleased to support SB 916 (Ashby), which ensures California prioritizes student housing by clarifying that courts may exercise judicial discretion to require a bond in lawsuits challenging student housing developments. This will help prevent frivolous lawsuits that can delay or derail student housing.

[OPTIONAL: Insert 1-2 sentences to briefly describe your organization: You may include how many people you serve and where, how many people you employ and where, why this policy is important to your org, etc.. IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO INCLUDE A STATEMENT, PLEASE DELETE THIS PARAGRAPH.]

California faces a severe housing shortage, with production consistently falling below the number of homes needed to meet demand. Student housing is particularly affected by this shortage, as universities struggle to build housing that meets the need. More than 30,000 students are on waiting lists for housing provided by the University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) systems.

An estimated 417,000 students across the UC, CSU, and CCC systems lack stable housing. Students without stable housing are up to 87% more likely to drop out of school than their peers, making it more difficult to access stable employment and higher wages. This creates a vicious cycle that hinders students' ability to complete their educational goals, achieve economic security, and pursue upward mobility.

SB 916 clarifies that courts may require a bond in lawsuits challenging student housing projects, ensuring California continues to prioritize student housing.

For these reasons, [organization name] is proud to support SB 916 (Ashby).

Sincerely,

Signature

Name

Title

Organization