



March 8, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: SB 18 (Skinner) Keep Californians Housed Act – Support

Dear Senator Skinner:

I am writing to you on behalf of the California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) to support SB 18. CARA is California's largest grassroots senior advocacy organization, representing over 1,000,000 seniors and their families through our 275 affiliated organizations. SB 18 can provide rental assistance and legal aid at a time when seniors who rent face costs no one could imagine they would be facing after they retired.

CARA finds the increase in seniors facing homelessness alarming. We call on the California Legislature to help. Rental assistance can save some of our most vulnerable seniors, and grants through the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) could prove essential for local communities to provide that assistance.

The Keep Californians Housed would, in addition:

- Assist all renters in communities that take advantage of these grants.
- Reduce costs to taxpayers around providing services and emergency response for those who become homeless.
- Permit seniors to continue in homes and communities where they have history and lifelines, such as to enable them to age with dignity.
- Provide funding for Legal Aid for renters facing eviction.

SB 18 essentially provides that helping hand so many people need, and HCD would be required to post information to educate rental property owners how to properly treat tenants and give people the breaks they deserve.

For these reasons, CARA supports SB 18, the Keep Californians Housed Act to provide much needed assistance for seniors facing homelessness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hene Kelly".

Hene Kelly
Legislative Director
415-533-5244