



February 28, 2021

The Honorable Luz Rivas
State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: AB 71 (Rivas) – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Rivas,

The California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) writes in strong support of Assembly Bill 71. CARA is California's largest grassroots advocacy organization, representing over 1 million members through our 300+ affiliated organizations. Ending homelessness is a CARA priority. This historic legislation would establish a permanent source of funding to reverse the cycle of homelessness in California.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, AB 71 is one of many steps needed to keep Californians safe as the virus continues to endanger our public health and our economy. Older adults over 60 comprise the fastest growing segment of the homeless population, and permanent solutions are needed now.

For decades, California has attempted to address homelessness with short-term or piecemeal solutions -- but it hasn't been early enough. Now, hundreds of thousands of Californians are either currently experiencing or on the brink of homelessness -- a staggering number that is climbing by the day as a result of COVID-19. It's clear that to make meaningful change and reverse the cycle of homelessness, California needs a permanent solution.

For all these reasons, CARA thanks you for authoring this important legislation. CARA looks forward to working with you win the immediate passage of AB 71.

Sincerely,

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

Hene Kelly
CARA Legislative Director

CARA/ 600 Grand Ave. #410/ Oakland, CA 94610/ 510-663-4086/ www.californialliance.org