

February 16, 2012

Honorable Councilmembers  
Los Angeles City Hall  
200 North Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**RE: COUNCIL FILE 11-0262, PROPOSED COMMUNITY-CARE LICENSING ORDINANCE**

Dear Council Member,

We, the members of Women Organizing for Justice, oppose the Community Care Ordinance on the grounds that people who are most vulnerable and most in need of quality housing will face increasingly more barriers to accessing supportive housing. As we are sure you already know- quality housing is paramount to every person's stability and well-being. Without a roof over one's head, there is no chance for a decent, productive and fulfilling life.

We oppose any policy that actively makes it harder for people to find shelter and stand firm against this policy in that it is discriminatory against our most marginalized populations: homeless people with mentally illnesses, substance abuse histories and criminal backgrounds. If passed, this community-care licensing ordinance will exclude all housing arrangements other than those household members living under one single lease in family residential zones and current buildings housing more than two unrelated probationers or parolees in the building would be in violation. This will effectively shut down much needed and successfully run sober living homes and reentry programs that help thousands of people get back on their feet to live a healthy and meaningful life.

This proposed ordinance hampers efforts to provide more safe, quality housing for vulnerable people in need of support and care in their path to bettering their lives. We ask that you please join us in our opposition to this ordinance as it will have a negative impact on people whom need the most help. We thank you in advance for your consideration and look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully,

Women Organizing for Justice