

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Mary Leslie

**Date Submitted:** 02/06/2020 02:56 PM

**Council File No:** 20-0002-S2

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear Council President Martinez, On behalf of the Los Angeles Business Council, I am writing in support of Council File 20-0002-S2, which would include for the City of Los Angeles in its 2019-2020 State Legislative Program support for AB 1907 (Santiago). The LABC is a proud co-sponsor of AB 1907 and is working diligently to garner a broad base of support for this crucial piece of state legislation that would streamline the construction of much-needed homeless shelters, supportive housing, and certain types of affordable housing. The state is facing an unprecedented housing and homelessness crisis. In 2019, the California Department of Housing and Community Development cited a need for more than 1.3 million housing units to be built within the next decade. Cities and counties across the state are facing rapidly increasing homeless populations - including Los Angeles city by 16 percent, Sacramento County by 19 percent, and San Francisco by 23 percent all within the last two years. Currently, about 150,000 are experiencing homelessness in California. This number will only continue to grow if we do not act with urgency. In 2019, AB 1197 (Santiago) laid the groundwork for expedited construction of supportive housing and emergency shelter projects in Los Angeles city. Last year's bill is projected to save between 12 and 18 months for many projects, resulting in about \$2 billion in savings over the next five years. Not only is AB 1197 already saving us time, but it is also saving us money. This bill will build upon AB 1197's success and expand its scope statewide to include affordable housing, permanent supportive housing, and emergency shelters. If we want to get serious about solving California's homelessness crisis, we need to take bold and effective action. AB 1907 targets a narrow subset of affordable housing, those going to California's lowest-income households. By zeroing in on specific housing projects, this bill can balance environmental and labor protections with the need to get affordable homes built more quickly. Without compromising on California's values of environmental protection, public health and safety, AB 1907 can help relieve thousands of families and individuals from homelessness. AB 1907 is the all-out call to action California needs. As one of the nation's most progressive states and the world's 5th largest economy, California must get serious about its homelessness crisis and housing

shortage. By speeding up construction of desperately needed housing, we can get more homeless families and individuals into housing faster and prevent more from falling homeless. Thank you for your consideration and we respectfully request the City support this necessary legislation. Sincerely, Mary Leslie  
President LABC