

# REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

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DATE: November 12, 2019

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations  
Committee

FROM: Sharon M. Tso *ST*  
Chief Legislative Analyst

Council File No: 19-0002-S151  
Assignment No: 19-08-0806

SUBJECT: Resolution (O'Farrell - Krekorian) to support HR 1856 (Waters).

**CLA RECOMMENDATION** Adopt the attached Resolution (O'Farrell - Krekorian) to include in the City's 2019-20 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for HR 1856 (Waters) which would provide over \$13 billion over five years for homeless housing and services nationwide, including permanent supportive housing, rental assistance, outreach, and case management.

## **SUMMARY**

On August 9, 2019 Resolution (O'Farrell - Krekorian) was introduced and states the following:

- Homelessness has been declared a crisis in Los Angeles and that there are approximately 36,000 homeless individuals in the City;
- To address this issue, the City has taken significant action, including creating the Homelessness and Poverty Committee; adopting the Comprehensive Homeless Strategy; helping to pass the \$1.2B Proposition HHH homeless housing bond; and allocating tens of millions of dollars annually for shelter, services, and housing as part of the City's Homeless Budget;
- Despite these commitments, City policymakers have stated that Los Angeles cannot do it alone, and that additional government assistance is necessary; and
- Congresswoman Waters has introduced HR 1856, The Ending Homelessness Act of 2019, which would provide over \$13 Billion over five years for homeless housing and services nationwide, including permanent supportive housing, rental assistance, outreach, and case management.

The Resolution recommends support for this bill as Los Angeles County represents approximately 10 percent of the nation's homeless population, and there is a clear need for federally funded housing and safety-net resources.

## **BACKGROUND**

On March 25, 2019, Congresswoman Maxine Waters (CA) introduced HR 1856 - The Ending Homelessness Act of 2019. Congresswoman Waters states that the nation's progress toward ending homelessness has stalled, and a new surge of resources is required. Congresswoman Waters informs that according to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), as of December 2018 there are over 550,000 homeless individuals in the United States of which nearly one-third, 160,000, are children and youth.

Locally, the 2019 the Los Angeles Point-In-Time Count of homeless individuals conducted by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) identified approximately 36,200 homeless individuals in the City, a 16 percent increase from 2018.

## **HR 1856 - The Ending Homelessness Act of 2019**

The legislation would provide over \$13 billion over five years, from 2020-2024, and is estimated to fund the creation of 410,000 new units of housing for people experiencing homelessness. According to the Financial Services Committee Democrats, in addition to the housing provided by HR 1856, the legislation takes a holistic approach to ending homelessness by also providing outreach, case management to connect people to required services, and technical assistance to states and local jurisdictions to align healthcare and homeless service provision.

A summary of HR 1856 is provided below:

### **Funding To Address Unmet Needs (Emergency Relief)**

\$5B total or \$1B annually 2020-2024 in high need jurisdictions:

- Not less than 75 percent of grants shall be for permanent supportive housing (PSH), including capital costs, rental subsidies, and services with an expectation to fund 85,000 PSH units; and
- Funds may also be used for transitional housing, rapid re-housing, and emergency shelter.

### **Special Purpose Vouchers**

\$2.5B total or \$500M annually 2020-2024:

- Sponsors of the legislation estimate that the bill will fund approximately 300,000 Section 8 housing vouchers.

### **Outreach Funding**

\$500M total or \$100M annually 2020-2024:

- The bill provides case management, outreach, and supportive services.

### **Housing Trust Fund and Rental Assistance**

\$5B total or \$1B annually 2020-2024 for the Housing Trust Fund; and

\$250M total or \$50M annually 2020-2024 for rental assistance:

- Sponsors estimate that the bill will create approximately 25,000 new rental units designated for extremely low income households to be created through the Housing Trust Fund and by funding project-based voucher assistance or project-based rental assistance.

### **Technical Assistance**

\$20M total for one-time funding:

- Technical assistance for state and local governments to help integrate and coordinate assistance with supportive housing and health care initiatives.

### **Permanent Authorization**

The bill provides for permanent authorization of appropriations for the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance grants which authorizes HUD's homeless assistance grant program, and for permanent extension of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness which coordinates the federal funding strategy to end homelessness.

### **Bill Support**

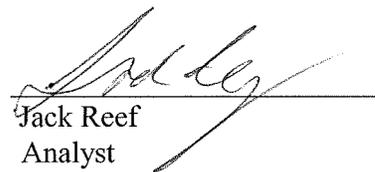
LAHSA supports the bill, stating that HR 1856 is a comprehensive approach to addressing the most pressing needs in the homeless services system by supporting chronically homeless individuals,

increasing funding for affordable housing, and focusing on outreach and care coordination. Additional supporters include the following: Local Initiatives Support Corporation; National Alliance to End Homelessness; and People Assisting the Homeless.

**Bill Status**

7/ 5/19	Placed on the Union Calender
7/ 5/19	Committee on the Budget discharged.
7/ 5/19	Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Financial Services
3/25/19	Introduced

Attachment: Resolution  
ST:IS:JW:JR

  
Jack Reef  
Analyst

## RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. House of Representatives, Financial Services Committee advises that homelessness has reached crisis proportions in the country, with this vulnerable population having surpassed 550,000 adults and children; and

WHEREAS, homelessness has also been declared a crisis here in Los Angeles, with the 2019 Point-In-Time Count having identified over 36,000 homeless individuals in the City; and

WHEREAS, to address this issue, since 2015, the City has taken significant action including, creating the Homelessness and Poverty Committee, adopting the Comprehensive Homeless Strategy, helping to pass the \$1.2 Billion Proposition HHH homeless housing bond; and allocating tens of millions of dollars annually for shelter, services, and housing as part of the City's Homeless Budget; and

WHEREAS, despite these commitments, City policymakers have stated that Los Angeles cannot do it alone, and that additional government assistance is necessary; and

WHEREAS, Congresswoman Waters has introduced HR 1856, The Ending Homelessness Act of 2019 which would provide over \$13 billion over five years for homeless housing and services nationwide, including permanent supportive housing, rental assistance, outreach, and case management; and

WHEREAS, the author introduced the bill stating that Congress has a responsibility to ensure that all Americans, including veterans, victims of domestic violence, the re-entry population, and those simply at-risk of homelessness, have access to safe, decent, and affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, the City should support this bill as the Los Angeles Homeless Service Authority has advised that Los Angeles County represents approximately 10 percent of the nation's homeless population, and there is a clear need for federally funded housing and safety-net resources;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2019-20 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for HR 1856 (Waters), The Ending Homelessness Act of 2019 which would provide over \$13 billion over five years for homeless housing and services nationwide, including permanent supportive housing, rental assistance, outreach, and case management.

PRESENTED BY: *Mitch O'Farrell*

MITCH O'FARRELL  
Councilmember, 13<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY: *Paul Reboreiro*

PK

AUG 09 2019

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