



April 2, 2021

The Honorable Buffy Wicks
California State Assembly
State Capitol, P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249

RE: AB 1188 (Wicks) – Reentry Registry Online Portal – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Wicks,

East Bay Housing Organizations (EBHO) is pleased to support AB 1188, which requires cities to create an online portal for data needed to address California’s housing crisis in an evidenced-based manner. California communities can’t address our state’s housing crisis effectively—nor understand the impact of shocks, like the COVID-19 pandemic—without comprehensive data to inform important policy decisions.

EBHO is a non-profit, member-driven organization with over 300 organizational and individual members. For 35 years, we have worked to preserve, protect, and create affordable housing opportunities for low-income communities in the East Bay by educating, advocating, organizing, and building coalitions. We believe that solutions to California’s severe housing crisis must be comprehensive. As such, we support a multi-pronged effort based on the three principles of production of new housing, preservation of existing housing that is affordable, and protection of residents from unaffordable rent increases, eviction, displacement, and homelessness.

As the cost of housing in California has soared, too many tenants have learned the hard way that eviction can lead to displacement or even homelessness—a concern only underscored by the COVID-19 pandemic. In recent years, the State has taken much-needed steps to protect tenants from unfair and detrimental displacement through policies like AB 1482. However, most communities lack the comprehensive data on rent increases, terminations, and rental property ownership needed to enforce existing tenant protections or consider new policies.

In addition, state and local lawmakers have worked hard to pass policies aimed at alleviating the housing crisis. In order to evaluate and build on these initiatives, deploy resources in the most efficient manner, and ultimately have the most effective impact, the State must support

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communities in developing a data-driven system that enables public officials, academic researchers, and the public at large to measure the outcomes of these policy initiatives.

We thank you for introducing this bill and look forward to working to secure its passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Werth', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alex Werth
Policy Associate