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February 9, 2026

The Honorable José Luis Solache
California State Assembly
1020 N St. Rm. 5110
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1708 (Solache) HHAP Pathways for Cities Act.
Notice of SUPPORT *(As Introduced 2/4/2026)*

Dear Assembly Member Solache,

The City of Lomita is pleased to support **AB 1708** (Solache), which would create a new pathway for cities with populations under 300,000 to access state homelessness funding.

Since 2019, the state's flagship homelessness grant program, the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) Grant program, has provided direct funding to cities with populations over 300,000, all 58 counties, and the 44 Continuums of Care (CoC) across California.

This structure has left most cities without a consistent pathway to access HHAP funding, despite investing significant General Fund resources to prevent and reduce homelessness in their communities. AB 1708 would address this by creating a new opportunity for the 469 California cities with populations under 300,000 to apply for HHAP funding through their CoC.

Specifically, AB 1708 would require CoCs, before allocating funding to other subrecipients in their region, to accept applications for 30 days only from cities with populations under 300,000. This measure would strike a reasonable balance between access and accountability, requiring interested cities to commit to regionally coordinated action plans and adhere to state housing and encampment policies.

AB 1708 would also require CoCs to prioritize applications from cities that have existing partnerships with non-profits, other cities, or have already leveraged state and local funding for existing projects in their communities. This would ensure that limited state resources are deployed efficiently and deliver measurable results in reducing homelessness.

The City of Lomita would benefit significantly from additional state homelessness funding by strengthening its ability to respond to unsheltered homelessness in a small city context where local resources are limited but community impacts are highly visible. Lomita has taken a proactive and accountable approach to homelessness by participating in regional coordination efforts, maintaining a compliant Housing Element, and adopting a local encampment policy consistent with state guidance, while focusing on compassionate outreach, public safety, and

access to services. The City has invested local General Fund resources in homelessness response through dedicated community safety staff, partnerships with nonprofit service providers, coordinated outreach, encampment resolution efforts, and preventative strategies that appear in regional action plans, despite not having a guaranteed pathway to HHAP funding in prior rounds. Additional state funding through HHAP Round 7 would allow Lomita to scale effective programs, deepen partnerships, and ensure that homelessness prevention, outreach, and housing navigation efforts can be sustained and expanded in alignment with regional goals, while delivering measurable outcomes for both unhoused individuals and the broader community

As the Governor and the Legislature consider future investments in the HHAP program, it is important to ensure the program is structured to maximize its reach and impact. Providing all cities with a pathway to participate in HHAP would strengthen regional collaboration and ensure state resources are deployed where they can most effectively serve unhoused Californians.

Local governments are best positioned to identify the programs and partnerships that will have the greatest impact in our communities. AB 1708 recognizes this, creating a clearly defined opportunity for all cities to compete for state resources, so that communities of all sizes can have a meaningful role in the state's homelessness response efforts.

For these reasons, the City of Lomita is pleased to support **AB 1708 (Solache)**.

Sincerely,



Cindy Segawa
Mayor
City of Lomita

cc: The Honorable Ben Allen
The Honorable Al Muratsuchi
Lomita City Council
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