

Guillen, Dora

From: Izeah Chairez <ichairez@nuhw.org>
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2024 5:54 PM
To: COB_Response
Cc: Needham, Jannelle
Subject: ITEM 33: SUPPORT - NUHW
Attachments: NUHW Support Letter Item 33.pdf

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attached:

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IZEAH R CHAIREZ (FORMERLY GARCIA)
Lead Political & Community Organizer
National Union of Healthcare Workers
ichairez@nuhw.org
(714) 363-7056





NATIONAL UNION OF
HEALTHCARE WORKERS

866-968-NUHW • nuhw.org • info@nuhw.org

January 16, 2024

Orange County Board of Supervisors
400 W Civic Center Dr
Santa Ana, CA 92701

AGENDA ITEM 33 - SUPPORT

Dear Orange County Board of Supervisors,

The National Union of Healthcare Workers (NUHW) represents more than 18,000 workers across California and Hawaii, including over 4,000 mental healthcare providers who see firsthand how pairing readily accessible social services with effective safety net programs can benefit people at risk of homelessness. Our union strongly supports Vice Chairman Doug Chaffee's Agenda Item 33 to fund \$500,000 towards a Fourth District Emergency Rental Assistance Pilot Program with the Friendly Center.

Far too many county residents are just one crisis away from falling into homelessness. Because state and local governments have limited resources, they often focus on supporting residents who are already living on the streets rather than investing in preventative programs.

Homelessness prevention initiatives are crucial because they address the root causes of homelessness. Vice Chairman Chaffee's program helps provide rental assistance paired with case management and additional support such as job training, financial counseling, and other wrap-around services — *these initiatives help people not only obtain but maintain stable housing.*

Preventing homelessness not only preserves the dignity of individuals, but also has broader societal benefits such as reducing the strain on emergency shelters, healthcare systems, and social services. It's a cost-effective and humane approach that fosters community stability and well-being, and I urge you to vote in favor of the Emergency Rental Assistance Pilot Program with the Friendly Center.

Sincerely,

Sal Rosselli, President
National Union of Healthcare Workers

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
1250 45 Street, Suite 200
Emeryville, CA 94608

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
225 W. Broadway, Suite 400
Glendale, CA 91204

SACRAMENTO
1121 L Street, Suite 1111
Sacramento, CA 95814

WASHINGTON, D.C.
317 Pennsylvania Ave. SE #2
Washington, D.C. 20005