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August 15, 2025

The Honorable Buffy Wicks
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Room 8140
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 736 (Wicks), as amended on April 10, 2025
Pending Referral in the California State Senate
Position: Support if Amended

Dear Assemblymember Wicks,

As a Yolo County Supervisor representing the City of Davis, I write in support of the proposed Affordable Housing Bond of 2026 if amended to include dedicated funding for student housing at California's public colleges and universities.

As a community that is home to UC Davis, we see firsthand how the statewide housing shortage affects not only students but also our local residents, businesses, and employers. When students are unable to access affordable housing on or near campus, they compete for scarce rental units in our neighborhoods. This drives up costs, strains our local housing market, and creates tension between students and long-term residents.

Investing in dedicated student housing is a practical and proven way to alleviate this pressure. Public universities have the land, infrastructure, and expertise to build quickly and efficiently, creating deeply affordable housing for students while freeing up units in our community for working families. These projects also support local economies by generating good-paying construction jobs and reducing commuter traffic and emissions.

The University of California, for example, has shown it can deliver results. Under the Higher Education Student Housing Grant Program, UC leveraged \$600 million in state investment into \$1.9 billion in total project value, adding more than 5,000 new student beds, including 3,000

deeply affordable units. CSU campuses are similarly prepared to move forward on shovel-ready projects that address critical local needs.

Amending the bond to dedicate \$1 billion to student housing at UC, CSU, and California Community Colleges would strengthen its overall impact and align with the Legislature's goals of expanding housing access, improving affordability, and supporting California's future workforce.

We share responsibility for housing our residents and advancing solutions that balance student growth with community stability. Including public higher education in the bond would give our campuses the tools to meet their housing obligations while easing demand in surrounding neighborhoods – a win for students, local residents, and the state's housing goals alike.

We respectfully urge you to ensure that student housing is part of the final bond proposal. Together, we can address California's housing crisis comprehensively and equitably.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sheila A. Allen".

Sheila A. Allen, RN, PhD
Supervisor, District 4
Yolo County Board of Supervisors