



City of West Hollywood

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October 21, 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, The Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2026. SUPPORT IF AMENDED.**

Dear Assemblymember Wicks:

This is to convey the City of West Hollywood's support if amended position for The Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2026. If enacted with the proposed amendment, it will not only make much needed funds available for desperately needed affordable housing but will also include dedicated funding for student housing at California's public colleges and universities.

As a community that is home to UCLA, we see firsthand how the statewide housing shortage affects not only students but also our 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 \$1 billion 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 (UC), 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.

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.

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 black ink, appearing to read 'C. Byers', written in a cursive style.

Chelsea Lee Byers

MAYOR

C: Hon Ben Allen, SD-24
Hon Rick Chavez Zbur, AD-51