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January 20, 2026

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

RE: AB 736 Support if Amended

Dear Assemblymember Wicks:

On behalf of Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce, we write in support of the proposed Affordable Housing Bond of 2026 if it is amended to include dedicated funding for student housing at California's public colleges and universities.

We understand 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. We support 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.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Kruger
President & CEO

Paula Larmore
Chairperson, Board of Directors

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