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DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

May 12, 2021

RE: DPSFV Supports Assembly Bill 1487 [Tenant Protection and Homelessness Prevention Act]

Representatives of the Honorable San Fernando Valley Delegation:

On behalf of the Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley (DPSFV), we are pleased to report that our Executive Board voted to support AB 1487, which will create a statewide eviction defense program in order to target funds towards local efforts to provide legal representation to at-risk tenants. The program will make sure to target those tenants who are most at-risk of falling into homelessness.

DPSFV was founded in 1978 and is chartered by the Los Angeles County Democratic Central Committee. Our organization is the coordinating body for a coalition of twenty-one Democratic Clubs located in the six Assembly Districts (38, 39, 43, 45, 46, and 50) which are wholly or partially in the San Fernando Valley.

The DPSFV Political Action Committee met last month to discuss AB 1487 and voted to recommend that the DPSFV Executive Board support this vital piece of legislation. The committee noted that evictions and displacement are a major factor contributing to California's homelessness crisis. Temporary moratoria on evictions and foreclosures during the COVID-19 pandemic can only delay this urgent and looming issue. Displacement is projected to dramatically rise in the coming months with far reaching consequences for public health, economic stability, and individuals' well-being. Data has shown that evictions are not only caused by economic hardships, but are themselves a root cause of poverty and homelessness. In communities across the country and state, shelter trends indicate that the top reason for families to seek shelter was eviction.

Eviction defense programs not only help prevent displacement and homelessness for individual tenants but they are also a cost effective, prudent investment for local jurisdictions. A 2019 report on the LA Eviction Defense Program estimated that for every dollar spent on an eviction defense program, Los Angeles would receive approximately \$4.50 in value in avoided costs of emergency shelters, local rehousing programs, and of providing mental and healthcare services to homeless individuals.

This bill is a first step in ensuring that every Californian can access the legal services and support they need to remain housed and avoid falling into homelessness. In light of the COVID-19 global pandemic, this program is even more necessary to help stem a potentially catastrophic increase in displacement and homelessness.

We urge you to support AB 1487.

Please note that DPSFV will be tracking this bill as it travels through the Legislature. Your voting record will be noted and may be considered should you ever seek our endorsement. Your office is always welcome to contact DPSFV if you have any questions.

Sincerely and respectfully,



Chair Sean M. Rivas  
Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley

cc: Assembly Members Rivas, Friedman, Gabriel (author), Nazarian, and Bloom  
Senators Hertzberg, Portantino, Stern and Allen

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