

MARIPOSA COUNTY

Administration • 966-3222



RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2019-482

MEETING: August 20, 2019
TO: The Board of Supervisors
FROM: Dallin Kimble, County Administrative Officer
RE: Letter of Support for SB 923

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Approve a Letter of Support for Senate Bill 923, Which Would Provide Resources to Combat Homelessness; and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Letter.

Communities across the nation are experiencing a housing crisis and rapid increase in the number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness. This bill creates a new funding stream for homelessness services specifically available to local governments and, in particular, highlights those services that would benefit homeless children. Staff appreciates the recognition that these services are most effectively provided at the local level and recommends approval of the letter of support.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The Board has routinely approved letters of support for issues that they believe will benefit the citizens of Mariposa County.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Individual Board members may write their own letters of support if not approved here, which may not carry the same weight as a letter from the entire Board.

ATTACHMENTS:

Letter of Support S. 923 (PDF)

RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Marshall Long, District III Supervisor

SECONDER: Kevin Cann, District IV Supervisor

AYES: Smallcombe, Jones, Long, Cann, Menetrey

Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

District 1 ... ROSEMARIE SMALLCOMBE
District 2 MERLIN JONES
District 3 MARSHALL LONG
District 4 KEVIN CANN
District 5 MILES MENETREY



DALLIN KIMBLE
County Administrative Officer

RENÉ LAROCHE
Clerk of the Board

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August 20, 2019

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Support for the "Fighting Homelessness Through Services and Housing" (S. 923 /H.R. 1978)

Dear Senator Feinstein:

On behalf of Mariposa County, I write to thank you for your attention to homelessness issues and express the County's support for your bill, the "Fighting Homelessness through Services and Housing Act."

Creating a new funding stream for homelessness services, and making it specifically available to County governments, is one of the most significant and influential actions the federal government can take in combatting homelessness. Counties provide so many of the services individuals and families experiencing homelessness need to get back on their feet; and those services are needed in California today more than ever before.

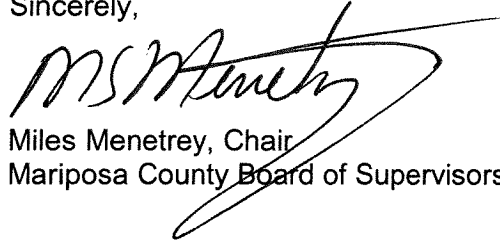
California, and many other states in our nation, is currently experiencing a terrible housing crisis that is one contributor to a spike in homelessness. California Counties have risen to meet this challenge, focusing available resources and developing innovative solutions. Mariposa County, despite being one of the smaller populations in the state, has implemented a continuum of care that includes our first shelter, rapid rehousing, mental health services, employment assistance and so much more. We are making progress, but there is much more to do.

We need a significant, impactful investment in counties that provide supportive housing for our homeless residents. We also need data, which the new grant program would require be collected, in order to track outcomes and make future decision on housing stability and improvement. We need this bill, and others like it, to be passed and implemented.

Mariposa County is especially supportive of the provisions in your bill that highlight the importance of providing services to children. The impact of homelessness and the dangers of living on the street have tragic consequences on a child's mental health, physical health, behavior, education, nutrition, and development. It is crucial to the future of our community to address chronic homelessness with solutions that include mitigation of and assistance for long-term consequences on homeless youth.

As we continue to work toward the goal of housing for all, we look forward to continuing to work with you and the federal government as active partners in the fight. Thank you for your work in this area to benefit the people of Mariposa, California, and the United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Miles Menetrey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end that extends to the right and loops back under the text.

Miles Menetrey, Chair
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Ted Lieu
The Honorable Kamala Harris
The Honorable Tom McClintock