



**California Association of Local Behavioral Health  
Boards and Commissions**

February 8, 2021

The Honorable Senator Susan Talamantes Eggman (Committee Chair)  
The Honorable Melissa A. Melendez  
The Honorable Richard Pan  
CA Senate Subcommittee 3 on Health and Human Services

Dear Senators Eggman, Melendez and Pan,

The Governing Board of the California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards & Commissions (CALBHB/C) is in strong support of Governor Newsom's budget ask for "Rehabilitation of Adult Residential Facilities (ARF) / Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFE)" (Subcommittee No. 3, February 9<sup>th</sup> Agenda Item 5180, Department of Social Services – Housing and Homelessness Programs, Item #6.)

We are specifically concerned for individuals with serious mental illness who require ARFs and RCFEs. Many of these facilities have been closing or are at risk of closure. The Governor's Budget proposal provides for acquisition and/or rehabilitation of this critical piece of the housing continuum. The attached issue brief outlines the challenges and costly consequences of the scarcity of this important piece of the housing solution, along with related legislation.

It is in the best interest of adults with mental illness, and in the best financial interest of the State of California and local communities to increase access to appropriate community-based, long-term residential options that include the necessary supports to address mental illness and other co-occurring physical health conditions. We urge you to support budget allocation to bolster this vital resource.

Sincerely,

Theresa Comstock, Executive Director