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NEWS RELEASE

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Assemblymembers Daly & Quirk-Silva Will Introduce Legislation to
Promote Regional Approach to Reducing Homelessness

Bill Would Help Form Public-Private Partnership to Fund Construction of Supportive Housing Units in Orange County

Sacramento – Assemblymember Tom Daly (D-Anaheim) and Assemblymember Sharon Quirk-Silva (D-Fullerton) announced today that they will introduce state legislation to allow Orange County cities, the County of Orange, local businesses and philanthropists to pool their resources to pay for construction of “supportive housing” units. The new agency will be called the Orange County Housing Trust.

“Supportive housing is a proven successful approach that combines affordable housing assistance with direct support services for homeless persons,” Assemblymember Daly said. “Study after study has proven that supportive housing not only reduces homelessness, but also saves taxpayer dollars by lessening the need for publicly-funded crisis services, as well as shelters, hospitals, psychiatric centers, jails, and prisons.”

“Helping the homeless in Orange County will depend on a multifaceted approach,” said Assemblymember Quirk-Silva. “There is no singular remedy to address the crisis. Supportive Housing means having cooperative actions at every level; local and state resources need to combine with the efforts of the public and private sector. Nevertheless, transparency and accountability are of paramount importance to ensure that funds are used with the trust of the public.”

Supportive housing links decent, safe, affordable, community-based housing with flexible, voluntary support services designed to help the individual or family stay housed and live a more productive life in the community.

The two lawmakers say their bill will support an initiative, led by the Associated Cities of California – Orange County (ACC-OC), to establish a regional public-private partnership to help homeless individuals transition off the streets into stable housing.

"This is important legislation that offers a regional approach to addressing the homeless crisis, which is negatively affecting our communities," said ACC-OC Chief Executive Officer Heather Stratman. "The Orange County Housing Trust would provide a comprehensive financing tool, as one piece of the overall solution."

ACC-OC recently announced a goal of financing up to 2,700 supportive housing units in Orange County. The objective of the Orange County Housing Trust is to establish a framework for a collaborative approach to reducing

homelessness, so that cities are working together to address the problem instead of competing for funding from the county or state.

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