



May 24, 2018

The Honorable Scott D. Wiener
Senator Scott D. Wiener
State Capitol, Room 5100
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for SB 1045 (Wiener)

Dear Senator Wiener,

As committed leaders in the business community, we are in full support of SB 1045 which will create a new conservatorship focused on providing supportive housing with intensive wraparound services to care for the most vulnerable San Franciscans. We want to work together to support solutions for those who struggle on our streets with chronic homelessness, mentally illness, and suffer from serious substance use disorders. SB 1045 focuses on people who routinely end up in emergency room, psychiatric facilities, jail, or other police custody and for whom voluntary support services have repeatedly failure to have a positive long-term impact.

The human crisis playing out on our streets is unacceptable. It is unacceptable to those struggling, to those living and working in San Francisco and to those visiting San Francisco. People are in dire need of support and services and SB 1045 is a step closer to helping those most in need. San Francisco faces an unprecedented housing affordability crisis, accompanied by significant untreated mental illness and drug addiction. These conditions, coupled with the limitations of our state and local social services, have left some counties searching for more tools to provide help and support to those Californians in the most need. Many of the successful programs and services across the state have still fallen short of providing meaningful rehabilitation to a small population of residents with severe mental illness and drug addiction who are deteriorating on our streets.

Some of these individuals are regularly placed on psychiatric hold, admitted to the emergency room for evaluation, or are arrested for behavior related to severe mental illness or drug addiction. By allowing greater flexibility to conserve these extremely disabled individuals, who are unable to make decisions for themselves, we can keep people out of the criminal justice system and focus on their health and well-being.

SB 1045 will provide a narrow, but effective optional tool for counties to deliver services, treatment, and support to the most vulnerable Californians. On behalf of the thousands of businesses operating in San Francisco, we thank you for working to find solutions to the crisis on our street and look forward to working with you to continue developing solutions to help those who are suffering.

Sincerely,

Joe D'Alessandro | President and CEO, San Francisco Travel Association



Kevin Carroll | Executive Director, Hotel Council of San Francisco



Jim Lazarus | Senior Vice President of Public Policy, San Francisco Chamber of Commerce



Gwyneth Borden | Executive Director, Golden Gate Restaurant Association



Karin Flood | Executive Director, Union Square Business Improvement District



Tracy Everwine | Executive Director, Civic Center Community Benefit District



Troy Campbell | Executive Director, Fisherman's Wharf Community Benefit District

CC: Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee