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League of California Cities® Honors Senate President Pro Tem Kevin de León as Legislator of the Year

Senate President Pro Tem Recognized for His Leadership on No Place Like Home Program to Help California's Chronically Homeless

Senate President pro Tem Kevin de León was presented with the League of California Cities® 2016 Legislator of the Year Award on Wednesday evening by League President JoAnne Mounce, council member from the city of Lodi, during a reception of newly elected mayors and council members in Sacramento. The League recognized Sen. de León in appreciation for his leadership in championing the \$2 billion No Place Like Home program that will fund the construction and rehabilitation of up to 10,000 units of supportive housing for California's chronically homeless men, women and children. The Governor's proposed FY 2017-18 budget proposes to allocate an initial \$262 million for this purpose.

When presenting the award President Mounce said. "Thank you Senator de León for your leadership in creating a funding stream to help build housing for California's homeless. In the past two years, our organization's leaders have made addressing homelessness a top strategic priority. We supported No Place Like Home from the beginning because these funds will have significant impact."

"I am honored to be recognized by the League of California Cities and look forward to working together to better the lives of all Californians. The homeless crisis in nearly all California cities is a heartbreaking reminder that we must do more for the neediest among us," said Senate Leader de León (D-Los Angeles). "The \$2 billion No Place Like Home program will help cities improve the quality of life for their residents and businesses by providing life-altering services and permanent housing for homeless individuals with mental illness."

The League announced that its board of directors had selected the Senate leader as the Legislator of the Year in October 2016 as part of the organization's Annual Conference & Expo in Long Beach. Unfortunately, President Pro Tem de León was unable to attend the event and the reception yesterday presented an opportunity to honor him with hundreds of city officials in attendance.

California cities are on the forefront of the homelessness crisis and the resources that will be available through this initiative starting in 2018 will be very helpful to local agencies as they collaborate with local nonprofits to create permanent supportive housing. No Place Like Home program uses \$2 billion in bond proceeds from Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act, which will be allocated over several years, and is projected to build and rehabilitate 10,000 units of housing.