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June 1, 2017

Senator Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Kamala Harris
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Sen. Feinstein and Sen. Harris,

On behalf of the League of California Cities, I write to express our strong concerns with the detrimental impact the President's proposed FY 2018 budget would have on domestic programs that have long benefitted California's cities and its residents. The President's proposal would devastate critical federal programs, many of which have helped leverage private investment in our communities. It would also eliminate essential "federal safety net" programs that aid our most vulnerable residents.

With over 12 percent of the nation's population, at 39 million, California has the largest and most diverse state population in the country. **Regrettably, however, our state is also home to 22 percent of the nation's homeless population and many areas continue to struggle economically.** With decreasing investments by the federal and state governments and state constitutional impediments to raising revenue locally, California cities have few tools available to advance economic and community development, build affordable housing, and otherwise assist our disadvantaged areas.

For these reasons, we urge Congress, as it completes work on its FY 2018 appropriations legislation, to avoid drastic cuts that will have the greatest impacts on our most vulnerable communities and residents and to support funding at no less than the FY 2017 levels for the following programs:

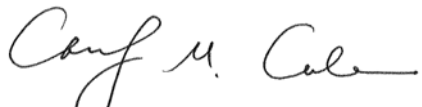
- **Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)** remains the most useful and flexible tool that California cities have to support various community development projects aimed at assisting lower income individuals. California communities received \$329,020,582 in direct allocation of CDBG funds in 2016. The state received an additional \$27,834,659 in CDBG funds to distribute to smaller jurisdictions by way of a competitive process.
- **HOME Investments Partnership Program (HOME)** is the largest federal block grant to state and local governments designed exclusively to create affordable housing for low-income households. California communities received \$98,886,217 in direct allocation of HOME funds in 2016. The state received an additional \$30,566,619 in HOME funds to smaller jurisdictions by way of a competitive process. Because California's cities are deeply concerned with the need for affordable housing in our state, we strongly support the continuation of this vital program and others to support affordable housing development.

- **Infrastructure Investments.** Maintaining and rebuilding our nation's infrastructure is vital to our economic future and quality of life. California recently approved financing augmentations to maintain our transportation infrastructure, and strongly believe the federal government must as well by taking steps to preserve the **Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery** (TIGER) grants and other programs that contribute to the improvement of our nation's infrastructure.
- **Disaster Preparedness Grants.** At a time of increasing concern over the potential for natural disasters and terrorist attacks, we are concerned with proposals to reduce the State and Local Homeland Security Grant Program and the Urban Area Security Initiative Grant Program and to eliminate the Flood Hazard Mapping and Risk Analysis Program and impose a 25 percent match for FEMA preparedness funding.
- **Assistance for Disadvantaged Residents.** While we understand efforts to target assistance to households most in need, we urge your careful review of the cumulative effects of cutting food assistance, energy assistance, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and other programs aimed at assisting the most vulnerable in our communities.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. As Congress works to adopt a FY 2018 spending bill, we urge your compassionate rejection of proposals that would eviscerate domestic programs that have long been critical for our California cities and their residents.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact the League's Washington advocate, Leslie Pollner (leslie.pollner@hklaw.com) or me. Leslie can be reached directly at (202) 469-5149.

Sincerely,



Carolyn M. Coleman
Executive Director

cc: California Congressional Delegation