

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA, IN SUPPORT OF SB 18 – KEEP
CALIFORNIANS HOUSED

WHEREAS, since 2013, the median market-rate rent in California has jumped 60%; and

WHEREAS, today, a California renter needs to work three full-time minimum-wage jobs to afford the average two-bedroom rental home without spending more than 30% of their income on housing; and

WHEREAS, more than a quarter of California tenants, including about 1.3 million low-income residents, spend over half of their income on rent; and

WHEREAS, many Californians are just one crisis away from losing their homes; and

WHEREAS, to afford a modest one-bedroom apartment in Fresno County, a minimum wage worker must work 54 hours per week, year-round; and

WHEREAS, median rent in Fresno County has increased 22% between 2000 and 2016, while median renter household income declined by 10%, when adjusted for inflation; and

WHEREAS, becoming unhoused can set off a negative chain reaction that often includes job loss and health impacts, making it even harder to secure new housing; and

WHEREAS, California's homeless population rose 16% from 2015 to 2017, with many people becoming homeless for the first time; and



WHEREAS, according to a 2009 study by the Economic Roundtable, providing services and emergency response to homeless individuals can cost taxpayers nearly \$35,000 per person per year; and

WHEREAS, an upfront investment in keeping families housed could save the state billions of dollars; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has a newly established fund for rental assistance programs, known as the California Emergency Solutions and Housing (CESH) program, but the fund lacks enough resources to meet California's large and growing demand; and

WHEREAS, SB 18, Keep Californians Housed, seeks to stop homelessness before it starts by expanding state funding for emergency rental assistance and legal aid to help residents stay in their homes; and

WHEREAS, SB 18 could help prevent Fresnoans from becoming homeless by providing additional funding to HCD for competitive grants for programs in Fresno that provide rental assistance and legal aid to renters facing eviction; and

WHEREAS, SB 18 would also require the Department of Consumer Affairs to post informational material on its website to help educate rental property owners on how they have to treat their tenants under state law; and

WHEREAS, the mayors of California's 13 largest cities, other than Fresno, have signed a letter in support of SB 18; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Fresno as follows:

1. The City Council hereby supports SB 18, Keep Californians Housed.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF FRESNO) ss.
CITY OF FRESNO)

I, YVONNE SPENCE, City Clerk of the City of Fresno, certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Council of the City of Fresno, at a regular meeting held on the _____ day of _____ 2019.

AYES :
NOES :
ABSENT :
ABSTAIN :

YVONNE SPENCE, MMC CRM
City Clerk

By: _____
Deputy Date

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
DOUGLAS T. SLOAN
City Attorney

By: _____
John Hastrup Date
Deputy City Attorney