



June 14, 2022

The Honorable Scott Wiener  
California State Senate  
1021 O Street, Suite 8620  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **SB 4 (Wiener) Affordable Housing on Faith and Higher Education Lands Act of 2023**  
(As amended 5/18/2023) **Notice of Support if Amended**

Dear Senator Wiener:

The League of California Cities (Cal Cities) writes to express a support if amended position on your measure SB 4, which would require local jurisdictions to approve 100% affordable housing development projects on land owned by mission driven religious institutions and independent institutions of higher education if the development satisfies specified criteria.

Housing affordability and homelessness are among the most critical issues facing California cities. Affordably priced homes are out of reach for many people and housing is not being built fast enough to meet the current or projected needs of people living in the state. SB 4 could help spur much needed affordable housing construction by allowing religious institutions and nonprofit private colleges to build 100% affordable housing on infill sites they own prior to Jan. 1, 2024. These institutions must follow nearly all locally adopted objective development standards, including objective design review standards.

Cal Cities would be able to take a full support position on SB 4 if it is amended to allow local jurisdictions to continue to determine maximum building heights and parking requirements.

We all know that streamlining the housing approval process alone will not solve the housing crisis. That is why Cal Cities continues to call on the Governor and lawmakers to include a \$3 billion annual investment in the state budget to help cities prevent and reduce homelessness and spur affordable housing development. Targeted, ongoing funding is the only way cities can find community-based solutions that get our residents off the streets and keep them in their homes.

Cal Cities looks forward to working with you and other stakeholders on legislative and budget proposals that will produce much needed housing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Rhine".

Jason Rhine  
Assistant Director, Legislative Affairs

Cc: Members, Assembly Committee on Housing