



September 12, 2023

VIA Email to the Office of the Governor and Author

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of the State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 4 (Wiener) - Affordable Housing on Faith & Higher Education Lands Act -
REQUEST FOR GOVERNOR'S SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Newsom:

The League of Women Voters of California writes to request your signature on SB 4 (Wiener), to ease barriers to educational and religious institutions building affordable homes on their own property. This bill requires local permitting agencies to review applications to develop such homes ministerially, thus exempting them from both conditional use permits and CEQA analysis.

This bill is one of many steps needed to satisfy California's need for affordable homes. Increasing homelessness and new economic uncertainties make that growing need increasingly visible.

Reducing land costs lowers a substantial barrier preventing the development of affordable homes. The bill permits constructing such homes on excess land already owned by religious organizations and private non-profit educational institutions. On its passage, about 38,000 additional acres of land throughout the state will become available for homes. Permitting will take less time and money

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as local agencies will be required to review applications ministerially, without lengthy rezoning hearings or expensive CEQA proceedings.

To fit into existing neighborhoods, the new homes must comply with local objective design standards. In addition, there are significant renter protections against displacement and short-term rentals are prohibited in these new developments.

The League of Women Voters of California strongly supports SB 4 as an important step toward ameliorating California's housing crisis and requests your signature on the bill. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Doute".

Stephanie Doute
Executive Director
League of Women Voters of California