

CARMEL J. ANGELO  
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**COUNTY OF MENDOCINO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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May 7, 2019

The Honorable Jim Wood  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0002

RE: Assembly Bill 437 (Wood) – Support

Dear Assemblyman Wood:

On behalf of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, I am pleased to report that our Board supports AB 437, which would establish the Move-In Loan Program for the purpose of providing grants to eligible nonprofit organizations to be used to provide no-interest loans to eligible applicants to afford the security deposit and first month's rent for a rental dwelling. Eligibility requirements for loan recipients would include a requirement that the income of the loan recipient is no greater than the area median income in which the rental dwelling is located.

In recent years, there has been a shift in housing needs resulting in more individuals and families renting rather than buying homes. Driven by the increase in demand for rental units, rental costs throughout the state have also seen steady increases in recent years. In addition, the 2017 wildfires in Mendocino County have increased the demand for rental units. There is a growing need for housing assistance for individuals that can meet the month-to-month needs of renting or owning a home, but the cost to get started is unattainable due to the rising cost of healthcare, student loan debt burden, stagnant wages, and other factors.

This bill helps to address the affordability of renting and provides an avenue to individuals to avoid homelessness by creating an interest free loan program that would cover the burdensome start-up cost associated with renting that can prevent individuals and families from securing rental housing. For these reasons, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors supports AB 437.

Sincerely,

Carre Brown, Chair  
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

CC: Honorable Mike McGuire, California State Senate  
California State Association of Counties  
Rural County Representatives of California  
Paul Yodar and Karen Lange, Shaw/Yoder/Antwih, Inc.

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