April 24, 2019

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 960: CalWORKS: Homeless Assistance – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Gonzalez:

On behalf of the California Travel Association, also known as CalTravel, I am writing to support AB 960, which expands California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) homeless assistance benefits by broadening eligibility, increasing the frequency of eligibility for temporary and permanent homeless assistance, and including additional housing types eligible for permanent homeless assistance.

CalTravel is the umbrella trade association representing the travel, tourism, and hospitality industry. Visitors to California spent $132 billion in 2017, spending that supported over one million jobs. California travelers generated $10.3 billion in state and local taxes in 2017 to support vital public services including police, fire protection, health and homeless services, park maintenance, education and road repair. Our membership is made up of cities, destinations, resorts, amusement parks, sports venues, transportation companies, industry associations, ad agencies, media companies, and other organizations for whom travel and tourism is important.

Our members take extraordinary pride in promoting the California experience to visitors from around the world. They have also seen the effect of homelessness within their own communities that impacts those experiencing homelessness, visitors, residents, and workers. It is one of the top challenges facing the travel and tourism industry in California today. Our members recognize that many families in our communities are struggling with incomes inadequate to provide stable housing, and we support efforts to provide temporary shelter assistance to qualifying families in order to keep them off the streets while transitioning them to receiving permanent homeless assistance.

For these reasons we urge your support for AB 960.

Sincerely,

Barbara Newton
President & CEO
California Travel Association

Cc:
The Honorable Brian Maienschein, Author
The Honorable Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Jennifer Swenson, Title, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Suzanne Sutton, Republican Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee