May 1, 2019

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

Re: AB 728: Homeless Multidisciplinary Personnel Teams – SUPPORT

Dear Chairwoman Gonzalez:

On behalf of the California Travel Association, also known as CalTravel, I am writing to support AB 728, which would expand the goals of the homeless adult and family multidisciplinary personnel team to include facilitating the expedited identification, assessment, and linkage of individuals at risk of homelessness, as defined, to housing and supportive services, and the expedited prevention of homelessness, and to allow members of the team to access and share confidential information.

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. Because the issues involved in addressing homelessness are so complicated, we support efforts to coordinate and facilitate services through a multidisciplinary personnel team in order to expedite services for those experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

For these reasons we urge your support for AB 728.

Sincerely,

Barbara Newton  
President & CEO  
California Travel Association

Cc:  
The Honorable Miguel Santiago, Author  
The Honorable Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
Jennifer Swenson, Principal Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
Cyndi Hillery, Republican Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee