**[SAMPLE LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR AB 361]**

**[INSERT YOUR LETTERHEAD]**

[DATE]

Assemblymember Holly Mitchell

State Capitol

Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Support for AB 361**

Dear Assemblymember Mitchell:

I am writing on behalf of [NAME OF ORGANIZATION] in strong support of AB 361. Using federal dollars, the bill would improve the health care of our state’s most vulnerable residents and reduce cost burdens those residents impose on Medi-Cal. [INSERT ONE TO TWO SENTENCES ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION]

People who frequently use hospital services for avoidable reasons (“frequent users”) and the overlapping population of people experiencing chronic homelessness face multiple barriers to accessing appropriate health care. Almost all of these individuals have multiple chronic conditions. Research demonstrates the only proven model for improving health outcomes, decreasing hospital and nursing home stays, and reducing emergency room visits among chronically homeless people and frequent hospital users are programs that provide “health home” services: outreach and engagement of potential participants, intensive case management, linkage to decent, safe places to live for people sometimes experiencing decades of homelessness, and connection to appropriate care and social services. The model is also *the only* proven to result in significant reductions in public health care costs.

AB 361 would take advantage of a federal Health Reform option to fund health home services. California would receive 90% federal funding for these services for two years, and 50% funding thereafter. The bill would authorize the Department of Health Care Services to take advantage of the option for any population it designates, while ensuring frequent hospital users and chronically homeless Medi-Cal beneficiaries, who incur disproportionately high Medi-Cal costs, benefit from the Health Home program.

The bill would not require any state investment, instead relying on federal, county, and private funds. Indeed, The California Endowment has offered to cover non-federal share of costs of the Health Home program for two years, including the costs of administering the program.

Thank you for your leadership in authoring this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

[YOUR NAME]

[YOUR TITLE]

cc: Sharon Rapport, Corporation for Supportive Housing, sharon.rapport@csh.org

John Skoglund, Assemblymember Holly Mitchell, john.skoglund@asm.ca.gov