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The Honorable Marilyn Dondero Loop, Chair
Joint Interim Standing Committee on Government Affairs

RE: SUPPORTIVE HOUSING IN NEVADA

The Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) thanks you for the opportunity to submit written testimony for the hearing conducted by the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Government Affairs on the topic of Affordable Housing.

As a Nevada native based in North Las Vegas, I have seen the growing need for affordable housing over the years due to rising rents and limited housing stock for households whose incomes fall below 30 percent area medium income. CSH advances solutions that use housing as a platform for services to improve the lives of people who have complex barriers to housing. Our organization helps states and local governments maximize public resources in order to build healthy communities. We are here in Nevada to help develop and sustain supportive housing statewide by helping to identify who needs supportive housing, help align the funding sources necessary to create supportive housing, the capital financing, operating sources, and the supportive services. We also help build capacity and train supportive housing providers, developers, and property managers on how to design quality supportive housing as well as support jurisdictions with strategies to ensure the developments meet quality supportive housing standards.

Supportive housing refers to non-time limited affordable housing with intensive, but voluntary services that are offered to individuals and families who would be homeless without the assistance and would be unable to remain housed without the services. Supportive housing in dedicated single site housing developments is not a common intervention in Nevada but can be a significant tool to address individuals and families who experience chronic homelessness, people who have chronic mental health and substance use disorders, families with child-welfare involvement, transition age youth and people with justice involvement who need an affordable home.

Access to wraparound services for individuals and families in supportive housing is critical for their long-term success. Services can include mental health care, treatment for substance use disorders, physical healthcare and tenancy supports. Resources for services to support the success of supportive housing is critical. Medicaid resources like the 1915i Tenancy Support Services benefit could be a major tool to help



fund services in housing but the state plan amendment has not advanced for a public hearing which is required for approval by the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services.

Access to proper services can lead to decreased utilization of costly crisis care such as prolonged hospitalizations, frequent emergency room visits, and incarceration; all of which are expensive interventions that provide only temporary solutions to long-term problems.

To advance this evidence-based intervention Nevada needs a supportive housing system modeling strategy that is jurisdictionally focused as well as capital, operating, and service funder alignment that prioritizes the need through a coordinated funding notification process. Capacity building is also a critical element to support service providers, developers and property managers with the tools necessary to create quality supportive housing.

In closing, there is an important opportunity for Nevada to utilize the investments from the American Rescue Plan and tax-exempt bond authority to seed quality supportive housing. CSH is in Nevada to help assist with leveraging best practices that we have advanced throughout the country and support the state and local communities with advancing this proven evidence-based intervention to meet the need. I can be reach at Brooke.Page@csh.org to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Brooke Page

Brooke Page,
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