



State of California

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Milton Marks Commission on California State
Government Organization and Economy

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January 19, 2022

The Honorable Robert M. Hertzberg
1021 O Street, Suite 8610
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 513

Dear Senator Hertzberg,

The Little Hoover Commission supports SB 513, the measure you authored that would require the Department of Housing and Community Development to develop and administer a program that awards grants to homeless shelters to serve the needs of pets for people experiencing homelessness.

In its 2021 report, *Beyond the Crisis: A Long-Term Approach to Reduce, Prevent, and Recover from Intimate Partner Violence*, the Commission found that the beloved pets of intimate partner violence survivors can be a barrier as they contemplate fleeing abusive relationships. Perpetrators often use animal abuse as a mechanism of coercion, yet a dearth of shelters accepting victims of abuse and their furry companions leaves survivors with few options to safely escape with their pets. As a result, many survivors remain with their pets in extremely dangerous, abusive situations. To remedy this, the Commission urged the state to help survivors of intimate partner violence access lifesaving shelter for themselves and their pets.

SB 513 would carry out this recommendation by increasing the number of shelters that house pets on-site with their owners. For this reason, the Little Hoover Commission supports this bill. If I, the Commission, or our staff can provide any further assistance as this proposal moves through the legislative process, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Pedro Nava
Chairman

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Pedro Nava, Chairman

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