



City of  
Encinitas

Office of  
The Mayor

April 15, 2015

The Honorable Senator Carol Liu  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 5097  
Sacramento, CA 95814

*Kristin Gaspar*  
Mayor

**RE: SB 608 (Liu) The Right to Rest Act  
Notice of Opposition**

Dear Senator Liu:

*Catherine S. Blakespear*  
Deputy Mayor

The City of Encinitas regrets to inform you of our opposition to SB 608 (Liu) The Right to Rest Act. While the measure is well-intended, we do not believe it would make a positive contribution to combatting homelessness in our state and within our communities.

*Tony Kranz*  
Council Member

The challenge of combatting homelessness has been around for decades. The solutions lie in getting the affected people housed and treating underlying causes, not by creating a special set of exemptions, privileges and rights for the homeless to occupy public and private property without complying with laws that apply to all others in society. Your approach would undermine the ability of all others to access clean and non-threatening public spaces, while jeopardizing property rights and the economic viability of local businesses.

*Mark Muir*  
Council Member

SB 608 contains no solutions for homelessness. It contains no new programs, no funding for housing, and no effort to improve services. It creates a special set of exemptions and privileges for homeless people including lodging in any building, structure, vehicle or place without the permission of the owner, without penalty. This undermines the equal applicability of laws. Should it be enacted it will expand social disorder and deteriorate California's public lands and spaces, quality of life and economy. Respecting laws and property rights are the foundation of our social order. The provisions of your bill appear to allow a homeless person to live in any public space for as long as he or she wishes.

*Lisa Shaffer*  
Council Member

Encinitas has a legislative priority of protecting local control of land use decision making and opposing legislation that threatens local control. For this and the reasons stated above, the City of Encinitas opposes SB 608 (Liu).

Sincerely,

*Larry Watt*  
Interim City Manager

Kristin Gaspar  
Mayor

cc: Senator Patricia Bates, Fax (916) 651-4936  
Assembly Member Rocky Chavez, Fax (916) 319-2176  
City Council  
Catherine Hill, League of California Cities, Fax (619) 501-7651  
JGC Consulting, Fax (916) 441-1222  
Parks & Recreation Department