



June 28, 2024

The Honorable Mike Thompson  
United States House of Representatives  
268 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**Re: H.R. 8560 (Takano) End Veteran Homelessness Act – Support**

Dear Congressman Huffman:

On behalf of the City of Santa Rosa, I am writing to ask you to support H.R. 8560, a bill authored by Representative Mark Takano known as the End Veteran Homelessness Act of 2024. This legislation will help reduce casework bottlenecks and expand eligibility for the HUD-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program, allowing more veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness to obtain permanent housing.

NATALIE ROGERS  
Mayor

MARK STAPP  
Vice Mayor

EDDIE ALVAREZ

VICTORIA FLEMING

DIANNA MACDONALD

JEFF OKREPKIE

CHRIS ROGERS

HUD's 2023 Point in Time (PIT) Count indicates that nearly 38,000 veterans were experiencing homelessness in 2023. This is a growing trend that is major issue for our community and the nation. The County of Sonoma's Preliminary 2024 PIT homeless count numbers show a dramatic increase of 47% over the last year in the number of veterans experiencing homelessness in the county, totaling 162 homeless veterans. Many of those veterans are living in Santa Rosa.

This critical piece of legislation will expand access to available HUD-VASH vouchers, expand eligibility so more veterans and their families can participate in this program and allow veterans that receive housing assistance from other federal programs to transfer into this program, thereby freeing up the other housing assistance for non-veterans in need. We must continue to prioritize services for the chronically homeless, especially among our veteran community.

We would appreciate your support of this important measure and ask that you co-sponsor H.R. 8560.

Sincerely,

Natalie Rogers  
Mayor