

Communication from Public

Name: Patti Prunhuber

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Council File No: 23-0338

Comments for Public Posting: September 17, 2024 Dear Honorable Council Members, In full support of Item #8 (CF 23-0338). On behalf of Justice in Aging, I am writing to urge the Homelessness and Housing Committee to vote in support of the revised proposed guidelines for the Interim Income Support for Rent-Burdened At-Risk Seniors and Persons with Disabilities Program. We support the additional requirement that participants receive benefits and tax consultation so they may be well-informed of their options before deciding the best way to receive their income assistance and eliminates the risks to any public benefits they may also be receiving. It is important to note that most needs-based program have a way to structure payments so that they do not have a negative effect on receipt of benefits. Approximately 3,000 households with seniors and people with disabilities have been identified from the applicants of the ULA Short-Term Emergency Rental Assistance Program who had an average of \$20,849 in rental arrears. Unfortunately, these households were not provided rental assistance either due to their rental arrears exceeding six months and/or their landlord opting not to participate, further putting seniors and people with disabilities at risk of losing their housing. These revisions to the Interim Income Support Program will ensure the remaining \$11 million can be quickly dispersed to low-income seniors and persons with disabilities who are at imminent risk of losing their housing. Keeping older and disabled Angelenos housed is not only humane, it is fiscally sound, as it will prevent them from needing extensive housing and social services associated with homelessness, and will continue to support their ongoing needs to live happy and healthy lives. Thank you for your consideration of this important request. Sincerely, Patti Prunhuber Director, Housing Advocacy