**SAMPLE SUPPORT LETTER – AB 1508 (RAMOS)**

1. Please **add your logo** or letterhead
2. Please **sign and print your name** at the bottom
3. All **highlighted text should be** **replaced** before letter is finalized
4. **Scan a copy** **to**: robert@thetwohundred.org

[INSERT LOGO]

[INSERT DATE]

The Honorable James C. Ramos

California State Assembly

State Capitol

Sacramento, CA 94249

**SUPPORT** – **AB 1508**

Dear Assembly Member Ramos,

The undersigned are pleased to support Assembly Bill 1508, which will require the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to include a goal to increase homeownership among first-time home buyers in the state. It is our strong belief that as a shared value of communities and of state government, a document as important as the Statewide Housing Plan must include homeownership.

Today, California has a statewide housing shortage of nearly 2.5 million homes[[1]](#endnote-2) and for the past decade has produced only 45% of the number of housing units needed to meet our growing population.[[2]](#endnote-3) While homeownership is the primary way in which most Americans build wealth and assets, California has the third highest median home price in the country[[3]](#endnote-4) and the high-cost of housing has pushed what was once a modest goal further out of reach. People of color, who make up more than 60% of the state’s population, pay the heaviest price for the broken housing market in California. African American homeownership rates are 26% lower and Latino homeownership rates are 19% lower than White Californians.

In the current budget, the State of California will directly invest approximately $680 million in homeownership, both through construction financing as well as mortgage subsidy. HCD will itself oversee $170 million in funding for homeownership through the CalHome and Joe Serna Jr. Farmworker Housing programs. Considering this investment, we believe it is time to have homeownership officially included in the state’s housing plan.

**Thank you for bringing this essential bill forward.**

Sincerely,

[INSERT SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE]

[PRINT NAME AND TITLE]

1. https://statewide-housing-plan-cahcd.hub.arcgis.com/ [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
2. https://www.hcd.ca.gov/policy-research/plans-reports/docs/SHA\_Final\_Combined.pdf [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
3. https://www.businessinsider.com/average-home-prices-in-every-state-washington-dc-2019-6 [↑](#endnote-ref-4)