



California
LABOR
Federation

October 7 2026

Senator Catherine Blakespear

1021 O Street, Suite 7720

Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 20

Dear Senator Catherine Blakespear,

We are writing to provide suggestions towards SB-20 that would help enable us to endorse the bill,

As the bill stands, we do appreciate the bill's intent to provide housing that is restricted to workers within that income range and its acknowledgement that many California workers in healthcare, education, and services are being priced out of housing, many of whom are members of the Labor Federation. But we are unable to provide our support for SB-20 until some changes are made to protect our workers from possible misuse of a well-intended bill.

Currently, SB-20 does not have any labor standards, which poses the risk of subsidized construction paying below-market wages to workers constructing this workforce housing.

Requiring prevailing wage and skilled-and-trained workforce standards on the construction that earns the tax credit. Additionally, there needs to be protection from eviction/lease loss for these tenants in the scenario where they are laid off, quit, or participate in union activity and/or striking. Having employer-tied housing where the tenant can lose their housing because of something within the workplace can give excess leverage to the employer over their employees, which can heavily disrupt the workers' safety to speak out against workplace injustice. SB-20 should be made to incentivize both workers and employers towards workforce housing, but if these conditions are not changed, there can be massive issues in ensuring fair workplace treatment and employee freedom of expression, especially if housing is leveraged against them by their employer.

We would advise you to review and make changes and new additions to SB-20, and we believe in doing so the bill can create a promising project that seems to benefit California workers and employers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John Labor', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

John Labor - Lobbyist

California Labor Federation