

Over 200,000 Californians Lacking Shelter from the Elements is a Public Health Crisis

Whereas there exists a stark discrepancy in life expectancy between sheltered and unsheltered Californians, with the latter experiencing a significantly lower life expectancy of 47 years compared to 77 years for the former; and

Whereas California harbors a disproportionate share of the national houselessness crisis, with 30% of all Americans experiencing houselessness and a staggering 50% of all unsheltered Americans residing within the state of California; and

Whereas a declaration of a California Public Health Crisis is crucial to mobilize the state's emergency system and resources in addressing circumstances that severely compromise the health of unhoused and unsheltered Californians;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Riverside County Democratic Party urges California, the 4th largest economy in the world, to declare lack of shelter for over 200,000 Californians as a Public Health Crisis which will launch a coordinated statewide public health response, inclusive of immediate temporary shelters and a pathway to permanent, safe, and secure long-term housing for all Californians.

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