

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS**

**Wednesday, March 20, 2019
8:45 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 474, SENATE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

Senate Bill 474, Senate Draft 2 proposes to appropriate funds for the operating expenses of the Department of Human Services. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure and respectfully requests an amendment to Item No. 27, Program ID 224HS-05 on page 8.**

The Department notes that the original version of this measure included \$5,000,000 for "Store property and debris removal services for state lands (Item No. 27, Program ID 224HS-05). However, Senate Bill 474, Senate Draft 2 removes this funding. The Department respectfully asks that these funds be reinstated.

Funds appropriated last year are helping clean Department properties on all major islands. Centralized storage and debris removal is more efficient and effective than having to tap into operating funds for each of our land-owning divisions, and allows the Department to focus its scarce resources on mission critical operations. Additionally, regular enforcement of no trespassing rules is a critical aspect of the administration's three pronged strategy to affect homelessness. Working with outreach during a clean-up is often one of the most effective ways to encourage people to receive services or move into a shelter.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

LATE

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

March 20, 2019

TO: The Honorable Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

FROM: Scott Morishige, MSW, Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness

SUBJECT: **SB 474 SD2 – RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

Hearing: Wednesday, March 20, 2019, 8:45 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness supports this measure. In particular, the Coordinator supports funding for core homeless service programs, such as Housing First, Rapid Re-Housing, homeless outreach and civil legal services, the Family Assessment Center, and stored property and debris removal services for State lands.

The Coordinator notes that HB1554 HD2, which is similar to this measure, does not include an appropriation for stored property and debris removal services. In addition, HB 116 SD1 appropriates \$1 for stored property and debris removal services. There is concern that the removal of funding for this item will significantly hinder the State's ability to address trespassing and unauthorized encampments on State lands.

The Coordinator supports appropriations in the following amounts, as included in the executive budget request, for each year of the upcoming fiscal biennium in Program ID HMS 224:

- Housing First Program \$3,750,000A
- Rapid Re-Housing \$3,750,000A
- Family Assessment Center \$1,550,000A
- Homeless Outreach and Civil Legal Services \$1,750,000A
- Stored Property and Debris Removal Services \$5,000,000A

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to appropriate funds for operating expenses of DHS.

Homelessness remains one of the most pressing challenges facing Hawaii, and the State has adopted a comprehensive framework to address homelessness that focuses on three primary leverage points – affordable housing, health and human services, and public safety. The Coordinator works closely with multiple state agencies to implement this framework by working with State agencies and law enforcement to connect trespass and other enforcement efforts together with the offer of services and housing-focused programs, such as Housing First and Rapid Rehousing. The coordinated efforts to implement the State’s framework to address homelessness have made progress in reducing the number of homeless individuals statewide. Between 2017 and 2018, the number of homeless individuals in Hawaii decreased by 690 individuals (9.6%). The decrease was one of the largest numeric decreases in homelessness in the country, only exceeded by decreases in California, Florida and Michigan. This recent decrease is the second consecutive decrease in homelessness in Hawaii – representing an overall 18% reduction since 2016.

A key factor supporting the continued progress in addressing homelessness is an emphasis on services focused on housing and public safety, such as those described in Items 1, 2, 3, 4, 27, and 45 in Section 2 of this measure. In particular, Housing First, Rapid Re-Housing, homeless outreach and civil legal services, and Family Assessment Center services create a clear pathway to permanent housing for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Performance metric data collected by DHS indicates that these core homeless services have contributed to increased placements into permanent housing for homeless individuals over the past two years.

Per the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH) strategic plan and framework, and as instructed by the Legislature, DHS executed new contracts for all homeless service programs in February 2017, with a focus on tying funding to performance metrics that reflect a system where homelessness is a rare, brief, and non-recurring occurrence. One specific metric that is captured for homeless services are the number of exits to permanent housing, and total length of stay in homeless programs. The percentage of homeless

individuals exiting a homeless service program to permanent housing has increased since the new DHS contracts began nearly two years ago. In the second quarter of calendar year 2017, the percentage of individuals exiting to permanent housing was 31%. In the most recent quarter (July 2018 to September 2018), over half (51%) of all individuals exiting homeless services were exiting to permanent housing. In addition to increased rates of permanent housing placement, the DHS Housing First program has demonstrated a high retention rate of 92.5%, which reflects the percentage of the participating chronically homeless individuals and families who sustained placement in permanent housing with the assistance of rental subsidies and supportive services. Accordingly, the Coordinator respectfully requests support of these core homeless services that have demonstrated their effectiveness in placing homeless individuals into housing and helping individuals to maintain housing over time.

In regard to funding for stored property and debris removal services, DHS currently has a Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Transportation (DOT) that enables DOT to oversee property storage and debris removal activities statewide for all state lands. In 2018, property storage and debris removal efforts addressed unauthorized encampments and other related violations (e.g. unpermitted structures, sidewalk obstruction, etc.) in all four counties, including areas under the jurisdiction of DOT, the Department of Land and Natural Resources, University of Hawaii, Department of Education, Department of Agriculture, Department of Accounting and General Services, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Hawaii Housing and Finance Development Corporation, Agribusiness Development Corporation, Hawaii Community Development Authority, Hawaii Public Housing Authority, and other State agencies. During the same period, 423 homeless individuals encountered during these enforcement and cleanup efforts were placed in shelter, housing, or other long-term placements (e.g. residential treatment, medical respite, etc.). Without the restoration of funds for Stored Property and Debris Removal Services, the State will be unable to continue the existing program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



PANKAJ BHANOT
DIRECTOR

CATHY BETTS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 18, 2019

TO: The Honorable Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 474 SD 2 - RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

Hearing: March 20, 2019, 8:45 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this bill and requests amendments. DHS appreciates the Senate Committee on Human Services and committee staff for their collaborative work to restore DHS budget requests. We appreciate the amendments of Senate Committee on Ways and Means; though we request that the positions and appropriation amounts be reinstated, and that the effective date be amended to be an effective date.

Once positions and appropriation amounts are restored, this measure, for the most part, will represent DHS "add-on" budget requests as previously requested in the Governor's Executive Budget bill SB126.

Additionally, we request the following additional amendments:

- **OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES – CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS – HMS 503**

This request is included in the Executive Budget bill SB126, and is referred to in testimony of SB 859.

Capital improvement funds are needed to plan and make campus improvements

at the Hawaii youth correctional facility (HMS 503). Funds are needed to address health and safety needs of the wards as addressed in the Department of Justice Memorandum of Agreement with the State of Hawaii (2009), and to make necessary capital improvements to the existing infrastructure and facilities at the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facilities. Also, improvements are required as the Office of Youth Services and the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility expand its capacity to provide services to multiple high-risk youth and young adult populations and their families. Planning funds of approximately \$800,000 is required.

Recent communication from the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, sought information related to the subsurface wastewater infrastructure at the HYCF campus. Based on the requirements, the facility's operational staff discovered two cesspools still in operation. These cesspools are in apparent violation of Title 42 USC §300j-4 of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

One of the cesspools serves the Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center's Homeless Shelter that houses 20 homeless young adults; the other cesspool serves Building 5 and will be removed under a separate capital improvement project. Approximately \$600,000 is required for sewer improvements.

The need for an assessment of the campus water system is warranted. Recent operational problems with the water pump station, the in-ability to cut off water for pipe repairs, and water tank deterioration have provided an opportunity to evaluate the water system, implement much needed repairs, and develop a future maintenance plan. Approximately \$900,000 is needed for water system improvements.

HYCF campus gymnasium was built in 1928 as part of the Kawaihoa Training School for Girls; its foundation needs repair as the campus gymnasium continues to be an intricate part of the mission of the Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center. Currently, the gym is utilized for recreational and programs by the students of Olomana School, students of a construction and mechanical vocational program called Kina'i Eha, community volleyball clubs, and the HYCF incarcerated population.

The scope of the HYCF campus gymnasium foundation repair is to correct the loss of bearing soils. The consultant will need to assess the condition of the floor to determine if the building has settled and if the work should involve re-leveling of the building before the foundation is repaired. Anticipated work includes: demolition of the concrete footing, excavation for the new footing, temporary framing to support the building, constructing the concrete footing, backfilling, hazardous materials removal, and related work. Once the foundation is secured, the gym will play an important role in the proposed master plan of the Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center’s sports complex that will also include its swimming pool and recreational fields. These facilities and fields will be utilized for recreational activities for the youth and young adults on property as well as community DOE athletic programs. Approximately \$225,000 is required to address the campus gymnasium foundation repair.

In summary, the HYCF requests for fiscal year 2019-2020 for the purpose of planning and repairing capital improvements at HYCF, including the hiring of necessary staff or contracting necessary consultants, as follows:

Campus Improvements Planning, Oahu (FY19.1)	\$800,000 C
Sewer Improvements, Oahu (FY20.1)	\$600,000 C
Water System Improvements, Oahu (FY20.5)	\$900,000 C
Gym Foundations Repair, Oahu (FY20.6)	<u>\$225,000 C</u>
Total funding:	\$2,525,000 C

- **DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION – CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**
HMS 802

This request is included in Governor's Message #6, and is also referred to in testimony on measures SB 859 and SB475 SD1. Also, though the Governor's Message #6 indicates the appropriation for FY2019-2020, we request the appropriation for FY2020-2021.

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Ho'opono Services for the Blind facility requires additional capital improvement project funds to address recent changes in flood zone regulations.

Act 49, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2017, appropriated \$521,000 to DHS Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), for design and construction to replace basement walls with a structure to withstand forces due to potential flooding, elevate wall openings, and protect the equipment around the Ho'opono Services for the Blind building. The capital improvement project is known as the Ho'opono Flood Zone Remediation.

The Department of Accounting and General Services advised DVR that additional capital improvement funding in the sum of \$810,310 C is required to respond to new flood zone mitigation requirements established by the City and County of Honolulu after the initial 2017 planned improvements were completed. The request is for fiscal year 2020-2021.

In summary, DHS requests capital improvement funds for fiscal year 2020-2021 for the purpose of planning and repairing the Ho'opono Services for the Blind facilities, including the hiring of necessary staff or contracting necessary consultants, as follows:

Construction and plan design	\$811,000 C ¹
Total funding:	\$811,000 C

- **General Administration: Adjustments to the Operating Budget Request**
HMS 904/AA

This request is included in Governor's Message #6. This request is to convert 1.00 full-time equivalent (FTE) general-funded Public Information Officer (PIO) position from temporary to permanent to promote longer tenures within the position to help retain institutional knowledge and maintain consistency in DHS' policies and decision-making regarding public information across administrations.

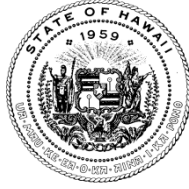
¹ Note: \$810,310 C was the original amount requested and included in SB 475 SD1; however, through the GM process, the amount was rounded to \$811,000 C.

As the budget reflects, DHS is a complex organization with four division, six staff offices, two attached agencies and two attached commissions, staffed by almost 2,500 employees and with a budget of \$3.8 billion. DHS administers numerous complex programs including the state's Medicaid program, TANF, SNAP, child care licensing and subsidies, homeless services, vocational rehabilitation, child welfare services, and adult protective services. Each of these programs has unique needs, regulations, and confidentiality requirements.

The Public Information Officer (PIO) functions as the communications officer for the department. The communications officer requires a strong command of all major programs and its functions, the regulations and statutes that govern information sharing for each program, as well as statewide public information laws. Additionally, the communications lead best serves the department when he or she has a strong understanding of key decision-makers and the history of the department.

For this reason, continuity in communications is important for the department to best fulfill its obligations and process to be open, accessible and transparent. The PIO position has historically changed with the department director. This has led to a disconnect for programs and previous information sharing decisions. If the PIO or communications lead position is made permanent, the department and each DHS Director would be better served, so that policies, decisions and institutional knowledge can be transmitted across director administrations.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this measure.



TESTIMONY BY:

JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
LYNN A.S. ARAKI-REGAN
DEREK J. CHOW
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 20, 2019
8:45 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 329

S.B. 474, S.D. 2
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES.

House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** this bill and seeks funding for \$5 million for Program ID 224HS-05 - "Appropriate Funds for Stored Property and Debris Removal Services for State Lands".

Since June 2017, the appropriated funds for fiscal year 2017 and 2018 allowed the DOT to clear structures and store items found within the DOT Right of Ways and other State properties. The largest of the cleanups was performed in October 2017 at the Nimitz Viaduct area. The DOT continues to clear shoulders, rights of ways, and other state properties to ensure safety and proper maintenance of these thoroughfares.

This worthy effort has aided the DOT to respond to the needs of the community, allowing traffic and pedestrian access, while keeping areas clear for safety and for maintenance purposes. We work in direct coordination with service providers and the Governor's Homeless Coordinator to encourage individuals to enter into shelters and gain access to human and social services. Through this program, we have successfully placed over 300 individuals into shelter, most who are experiencing severe and chronic homelessness.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



**Testimony to the House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness
Wednesday, March 20, 2019; 8:45 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

RE: COMMENTING ON SENATE BILL NO. 0474, SENATE DRAFT 2, RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES.

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Nakamura, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **COMMENTS** on Senate Bill No. 0474, Senate Draft 2, RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would appropriate funds for the operating expenses for the Department of Human Services (DHS) for the 2019-2020 fiscal biennium.

The HPCA wishes to share its concerns on Program ID HMS401 -- the Medicaid Program.

Over the past seven legislative sessions, the HPCA has urged the Legislature to appropriate additional funds to HMS401 for the reinstatement of adult dental Medicaid coverage, without success. As such, during the 2018 Regular Session, we offered an alternative solution for your consideration. Last year, we believed additional funds for fiscal year 2018-2019 were not necessary because it was our contention that there were sufficient resources within HMS401 to reinstate this essential benefit immediately.

Our position has not changed and we continue to assert that there are sufficient resources in HMS401 to reinstate the benefit immediately.

Based on our review of the Ige Administration's disclosures, it would appear that there are sufficient funds to reinstate this benefit immediately. Also, because this is the reinstatement of a pre-existing benefit, and that no additional statutory authorization is needed for DHS to reinstate the benefit, any subsequent change in resources for this benefit could be incorporated into the "base" budget so that future adjustments could be made citing "changes in utilization" as DHS did this year.

Furthermore, because of the scale of the appropriations in HMS401, DHS has more options at its disposal to ensure that funds are available for this benefit.

If the Legislature continues to find merit in DHS' plea for additional resources for the reinstatement of this benefit, we offer for your consideration this -- deny DHS's request to reduce the budget for fiscal year 2019-2020 in Line Item HMS401 by \$16,511,000 in general funds. This amount is more than what the Administration requested in all means of financing last year for the reinstatement of the benefit. If DHS believes it needs even more funding the following year, they can request it in the Supplemental Budget. However, at that time, DHS will need to reconcile their projected increases with the actual amounts spent and any **variance** with the previously budgeted amounts.

To do this, the appropriation authorized pursuant to Act 53, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018 for HMS401 for fiscal year 2019-2020 would need to be reinstated without the \$16,511,000 reduction proposed in the base budget by DHS

Accordingly, we recommend that the language found on page 8, lines 16 through 22 remain exactly as it currently appears in Senate Bill No. 474, Senate Draft 2.

"28. 401/PE-BF

MEDICAID CAPITATION ADJUSTMENT AND APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR HEALTH CARE PAYMENTS.

OPERATING HMS A A"

We reiterate that it is our contention that there is more than enough funds in HMS401 as well as the authority to use these funds to reinstate the benefit without having to make this or any other change.

In addition, if your Committee is inclined to put back these funds into HMS401, to ensure that the \$16 million is used for the reinstatement of adult dental Medicaid coverage, we further suggest that proviso language be added to this bill.

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 0474, Senate Draft 2

Wednesday, March 20, 2019; 8:45 a.m.

Page 3

To do this, we propose a new SECTION be added to the bill as follows:

"SECTION. . . Of the appropriations for health care payments (HMS401), \$16,511,000 in general funds or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020, shall be expended only for the restoration of adult dental benefits which include preventative and restorative oral health services."

In closing, we greatly appreciate this opportunity to share our MANAO with you today. It is our hope that the Legislature will agree with our assessment and urge the Governor to reinstate this essential benefit immediately.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 474, SD2: Relating to the Department of Human Services

TO: Representative Joy San Buenaventura, Chair, Representative Nadine Nakamura, Vice Chair; and Members, Committee on Human Services & Homelessness
FROM: Betty Lou Larson, Legislative Liaison, Catholic Charities Hawai'i
Hearing: **Wednesday, 3/20/19; 8:45 AM; CR 329**

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Nakamura, and Members, Committee on Human Services & Homelessness:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support** of SB 474, for proven services that successfully end homelessness. I am Betty Lou Larson, with Catholic Charities Hawai'i. We are also a member of Partners in Care.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawai'i for over 70 years. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy for the most vulnerable in Hawai'i.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i **supports Section 2, Items 1, 2, 3, and 4 which appropriate funds for homeless services that are ongoing, evidence based and have proven successful.** . We request that the appropriations listed be **increased for a larger reduction in homelessness.**

These are critical services that create a network of programs that are successfully moving people who are homeless to permanent housing. After many years of increasing homelessness, the 2018 Statewide Point in Time Count found that homelessness had decreased **by nearly 18% since 2016**. The 2019 PIT found a 4% drop on Oahu. In 2018, the Oahu network **moved 4,349 people into permanent housing, an average of 362 clients per month, for a 47% increase over 2017 for clients moving to permanent housing.** We still have a long ways to go. Additional funding will address the diverse needs of the homelessness in a coordinated network. **We need more intense focus on the unsheltered population, and prevention/diversion (like Rapid Rehousing).**

Housing First: is a proven program that not only moves the most visible and vulnerable chronic homeless people off the streets, but can save the state millions of dollars. The UH Center on the Family found that an estimated **\$6,197 / MONTH** in health care costs alone, was saved for EACH homeless participant in Housing First – an estimated **\$22 million EACH year in savings.**

Rapid Rehousing: rapidly enables families to obtain permanent housing through shallow rent subsidies. Hawai'i proven model is an effective path to end homelessness. **Family Assessment Center (FAC):** The Kakaako FAC, operated by Catholic Charities Hawai'i, has been so successful that the shelter system is using it as a model to streamline and enhance this overall system. Families with children are moved off the streets in an average now of 77 days.

Homeless Outreach/Civil Legal Services: these front line services are essential to connecting people living on the streets to housing navigation/resources to remove barriers to housing.

We also support the governor's request to fund Aftercare to ensure that once families move into permanent housing, they successfully remain there. 60% of the individuals in shelters are children. This funding could support 701 households to become stable in their new housing.

We urge your support **to increase funding for these multiple paths out of homelessness.**





PARTNERS IN CARE

Oahu's Continuum of Care

Our mission is to eliminate homelessness through open and inclusive participation and the coordination of integrated responses.

Testimony in Support of SB 474, SD2: Relating to the Department of Human Services

TO: House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness
FROM: Partners in Care (PIC)
HEARING: Wednesday, March 20, 2019; 8:45 AM; Conference Room 329

Dear Representative San Buenaventura, Chair, Representative Nakamura, Vice Chair, and Members, Committee on Human Services and Homelessness:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 474, which would provide proven services that successfully end homelessness. Partners in Care (PIC), a coalition of more than 50 non-profit homelessness providers, strongly supports the sections funding homeless services in this bill.

Partners in Care strongly supports:

Section 2, Items 1,2,3,4: Homeless Services: including funding for Housing First, Rapid Re-housing, Family Assessment Center (Oahu), Family Assessment Center (new center), Homeless outreach and civil legal services.

We also support the governor's request for Aftercare services for homeless families with children.

The first item funds evidence based, proven programs that are critical to turning the tide of homelessness. They show strong successes and are the keystones of the network that can end homelessness, if funding is sufficient to reach more homeless people. Not only do these programs lift people out of homelessness into permanent housing, they can also save the state millions of dollars. Research by the UH Center on the Family found that Housing First could save the state an estimated **\$22 million in health care costs alone** for about 300 placed clients. Stable housing is the key.

The Family Assessment Center in Kakaako has been such a success that the Legislature funded a 2nd new center to be developed. This successful model is now being utilized to streamline and enhance the overall shelter system. This Center now moves families off the streets into permanent housing in an average of 77 days (down from 80 days last year)!

All the homeless programs funded in this bill are critical to keep moving forward. The one new item to be funded, Aftercare services, is also extremely important to ensure that families who move into permanent housing can successfully remain there. This is essential since 60% of the individuals in shelters are children. We must ensure these families can maintain a stable home environment.

Partners in Care urges your support for the above listed items in the budget of the Department of Human Services. Thank you for your consideration of this very important bill.