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June 19, 2013

The Honorable Ben Hueso
Chair, Senate Veterans Affairs Committee
1020 N Street, Room 251
Sacramento, California 95814

**Re: AB 639 (Pérez) – Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention Act of 2014
As Introduced February 20, 2013 – SUPPORT
Set for Hearing July 9, 2013 – Senate Veterans Affairs Committee**

Dear Senator Hueso:

The California State Association of Counties is pleased to support Assembly Bill 639 by Assembly Speaker John A. Pérez, which would provide California voters with the opportunity to repurpose \$600 million of existing bond funds to construct and rehabilitate affordable, supportive multifamily housing for veterans at risk for homelessness and in need of mental health services, substance abuse treatment, and job training.

The Veterans' Bond Act was approved by voters in 2008 to provide a \$900 million general obligation bond intended to aid veterans in purchasing single family homes, farms and mobile homes through the CalVet Farm and Home Loan Program. Since its passage, most of the bond funds remain unspent and the need of veterans for multifamily housing and supportive housing has substantially increased.

California is home to more veterans than any other state; counties, through county veteran service officers, public health departments and housing departments are dedicated to identifying the various needs of veterans in our communities. AB 639, in restructuring \$600 million of the existing Bond Act funding to provide veterans with multifamily and supportive housing, will assist counties in better responding to the habitation and health needs of California's veterans.

For these reasons, CSAC supports AB 639 and looks forward to working with the author and relevant state agencies to address the overarching issue of housing veterans. You may contact DeAnn Baker at 916/650-8104.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'DeAnn Baker'.

DeAnn Baker
Director of Legislative Affairs

cc: The Honorable John A. Pérez, Speaker, California State Assembly
Members and Consultants, Senate Veterans Affairs Committee