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03/29/2022

Senator Shannon Grove 1021 O Street, Room 7150 Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Grove:

Homestead Valley Community Council writes in support of your legislation, SB 1195. This important bill will require the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) to assess the viability of allowing the federal Veteran Health Administration to place a satellite medical clinic on or near California's eight veteran home campuses. This has the potential to lead to increased access to care for those who have faithfully served our country.

Unfortunately, analysis has shown that residents of California Veterans Homes must often travel 2-3 hours in order to access services provided by the federal Veterans Health Administration. This has resulted in many residents delaying or putting off necessary and sometimes lifesaving treatment. In addition, the services available onsite at CalVet Veterans Homes have in many cases not kept pace with the changing needs of California's veterans population. Mental health services is one area where we have seen this play out with dire consequences.

SB 1195 will equip California to better meet the needs of its veterans population. This bill aims to provide more services to more veterans in locations where some of our most vulnerable need them most. There are no limits to the gratitude we share in thanking our service members for their commitment to our country in the armed forces. There also should be no limits to their access to critical health and mental health services.

For all of the reasons stated above, Homestead Valley Community Council supports SB 1195.

Sincerely,

Jim Harvey

President, Homestead Valley Community Council

On behalf of HVCC