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### **Support for Senate Bill 6647: Bring Washington Home Act**

All Home (King County's homeless continuum of care) applauds the Senator Sharon Nelson's leadership in proposing the Bring Washington Home Act (Senate Bill 6647) and its targeted investments to address the crisis of homelessness in Washington state. All Home's goals are to make homelessness rare in King County, and that if one does become homeless, that it is a brief episode and only a one-time occurrence. King County and the City of Seattle recently declared a state of emergency and this bill is crucial to addressing the crisis.

[Research](#) shows that homelessness rates in communities are driven by rent increases in the housing market, the availability of mental health and chemical dependency treatment, economy, demographics, and influx of people moving to a region. This bill addresses two of the primary reasons we have been unable to make homelessness rare in our state and in King County: a lack of affordable housing and a lack of access to mental health and chemical dependency treatment.

The bill includes funding that will help people experiencing homelessness to move from homelessness quickly. Rapid rehousing, shelter, youth homelessness programs, and behavioral health services are effective interventions for shortening the amount of time people experience homelessness.

The bill's inclusion of significant new funding for permanent supportive housing will leverage local and federal sources to create homes for the homeless, which is a less expensive and more humane approach to addressing homelessness in our state. Housing First is the solution to ending homelessness for those who are disabled and have been homeless chronically. [Study](#) after study have shown that it is cheaper to house people experiencing homelessness than not.

All Home supports this bill and its innovative, flexible, and outcome-oriented approach. We welcome the opportunity to discuss the bill with members of the legislature over the coming weeks.

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