



CITY OF MERCED

MERCED

June 10, 2025

The Honorable Sasha Renee Perez
Senator, 25th District
California State Capitol, Room 6720
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 634 (Pérez) – Local Government: Homelessness – NEUTRAL – (As Amended May 29th, 2025)

Dear Senator Perez,

On behalf of the City of Merced, I am writing to formally withdraw the City's previous opposition to Senate Bill 634 (Pérez). After careful review of the bill as amended, the City is now taking a neutral position.

The City of Merced recognizes the intent of SB 634 to protect the ability of individuals and organizations to provide support services to people experiencing homelessness without fear of civil or criminal penalties. We appreciate the author's commitment to promoting a compassionate and service-based approach to addressing homelessness in California.

While the City initially expressed concerns regarding the potential limitations the bill could place on local enforcement tools needed to address urgent public health and safety issues, we acknowledge the amendments and ongoing dialogue aimed at achieving a balanced approach. We believe collaboration between state and local governments is critical to developing policies that effectively support both unhoused individuals and the broader community.

The City remains committed to partnering with the Legislature, local agencies, and community stakeholders to advance thoughtful, equitable, and effective solutions to homelessness.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Sharon Gonsalves at California Public Policy Group (961) 974-9270.

Sincerely,

Matthew Serratto
Mayor
City of Merced

cc: Members and staff of the Assembly Local Government Committee
Assemblymember Esmeralda Soria
Marla Livengood, Regional Public Affairs Manager, Central Valley Division, League of California Cities
League of California Cities