

May 16, 2021



Jami Snyder
Director,
Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System
801 E Jefferson St
Phoenix, AZ 85034
Pima County Health Department

Dear Director Snyder,

The Arizona Public Health Association expresses our unqualified support of AHCCCS' Draft Housing and Health Opportunities Waiver and Expenditure Authority. We believe the initiative, as written, will improve population and public health. The draft is well-crafted and is based on evidence based best practices.

The initiative focuses on a core social determinant of health, access to affordable housing. Housing is critical to maintaining physical and mental health, recovering from a substance use disorder, and addressing basic safety needs of AHCCCS members.

Being homeless exacerbates existing mental health and substance use disorder conditions, and results in a host of poor health outcomes including depression, anxiety, using substances to cope, and other mental and physical health concerns. Homelessness contributes to need for both physical and behavioral health services for adults and children.

We believe that the draft, as written, will increase positive health and wellbeing outcomes for AHCCCS members while reducing the cost of providing needed preventative and rehabilitative health care services.

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We commend you and your leadership team for embracing new opportunities to improve the health of your members. The agency's previous leadership was often skeptical or even hostile toward developing creative solutions like this.

We are delighted that, under your leadership, you have turned the page and are embracing creative evidence-based practices like this draft waiver request.

Thank you for your leadership and for crafting and proposing the Draft Housing and Health Opportunities Waiver and Expenditure Authority!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Will Humble', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Will Humble, MPH
Executive Director,
Arizona Public Health Association
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