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## **HOUSE PASSES MAJOR BILL TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS**

### **Bill to improve, enhance homeless assistance programs now awaits Senate vote**

(Los Angeles, CA) The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) applauded the U.S. House of Representative's passage of the HEARTH Act (H.R. 7221) last week. The Act seeks to provide communities with new resources and better tools to prevent and end homelessness. LAHSA now calls upon the Senate to pass their version of the bill (S. 1518) in their upcoming lame duck session in November.

The HEARTH Act would substantially improve the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development's (HUD) homeless assistance grants programs. HUD is the largest funder of homeless assistance programs nationally, funding a substantial portion of such programs in the City & County of Los Angeles. The HEARTH Act would allow more flexibility for housing and services providers, allowing them to serve a wider range of people facing housing instability. It would also prioritize homeless families with children, and continue HUD's focus on permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless individuals.

"LAHSA is thrilled about the House's passage of the HEARTH Act, which, if passed by the Senate, will significantly improve our ability to address and eliminate homelessness," said Rebecca Isaacs, Executive Director of LAHSA. "We deeply appreciate every member of the California delegation who voted for the bill. We would like to especially thank Representative Maxine Waters (D-CA), who worked tirelessly to pass this critical legislation in the House Financial Services Committee. Representatives Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA) and Gary Miller (R-CA) were also strong advocates of the House bill."

"If passed, the HEARTH Act will have a sizable effect on homeless individuals and families in the City & County of Los Angeles" continued Isaacs. "Los Angeles County has the highest number of homeless people in the nation, with an average of 73,000 homeless on any given night. It is crucial that the Senate passes this bill to ensure that our most vulnerable populations receive the help they so desperately need." Senators Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Diane Feinstein (D-CA) are co-sponsors of this bill.

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) is a joint powers authority of the City and County of Los Angeles, created in 1993 to address the problems of homelessness in Los Angeles County. LAHSA plans, funds and administers programs that assist homeless individuals and families in their transition to permanent housing. LAHSA is the lead agency in the HUD-funded Los Angeles Continuum of Care, and

coordinates and manages over \$70 million dollars annually in federal, state, county and city funds for programs providing shelter, housing and services to homeless persons. Additionally, LAHSA partners with the city and the county to integrate services and housing opportunities to ensure wide distribution of service and housing options. LAHSA funds agencies that address many underserved homeless populations including battered women and their children, persons struggling with chronic homelessness, veterans, youth transitioning from foster care, and individuals with mental health needs. For more information, please see <http://www.lahsa.org>

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