



February 12, 2020

Representative Nicole Macri
Representative Larry Springer
Senator Jamie Pedersen
Senator Karen Keiser

Re: Support for HB 2907

Dear Representatives Macri and Springer and Senators Pedersen and Keiser:

We are Co-Chairs of the Third Door Coalition, an unlikely alliance of business leaders, supportive housing providers, researchers, and homeless advocates working together to address chronic homelessness in King County. We write to express support for HB 2907 in the form you sponsored. As you know, numerous studies and reports, including the most recent McKinsey report, confirm the correlation between the lack of affordable housing and our region's homelessness crisis. By generating some much-needed revenue for affordable housing and behavioral health, HB 2907 is a step in the right direction.

While we applaud Bill 2907, we also think the Bill should go further. First, the Third Door is keenly aware of distinctions between affordable housing and extremely low income housing: the latter, including supportive housing, should be a primary target of the bill. Second, the Third Door has conducted our own needs analyses of the revenue necessary to adequately address chronic unsheltered homelessness. HB 2907, while an important step in the right direction, is unlikely to generate the revenue needed to achieve the Bill's goals. Instead, the Bill should seek to generate more revenue and target extremely low income housing in particular.

We invite you to learn more about our goal of reaching a functional zero in unsheltered chronic homelessness in our region. We hope you will see the Third Door Coalition as an ally in your important efforts to address homelessness.

Sincerely,

Professor Sara Rankin
Co-Chair, Third Door Coalition
Director, Homeless Rights Advocacy Project

Chad Mackay
Co-Chair, Third Door Coalition
CEO, Fire & Vine Hospitality