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Molly Weedn
molly@axiomadvisors.com

On Veteran's Day, California Leaders and Veteran Organizations Support Proposition 1

The major overhaul to California's mental health funding system will provide \$1 billion in new, dedicated funding to help California's veterans

Sacramento - California is home to nearly 1.6 million veterans - more than any other state across the nation - many of whom are sadly experiencing homelessness, mental health crises and who are battling substance abuse issues. Proposition 1 will provide \$1 billion in critical funding for veterans to ensure that treatment - not tents - helps to restore the dignity of these men and women.

"Voting YES on Proposition 1 will ensure we honor our veterans everyday, not just on this important occasion," **said Governor Gavin Newsom**. "Proposition 1 will prioritize getting people - including those that have served our nation - off of the streets, out of tents and into the treatment they deserve.."

WHY IT MATTERS:

- The California Association of Veteran Services recently released their [2023 annual report](#), further showcasing the need for dedicated funding to support veterans through Proposition 1. In 2022, more veterans committed suicide, nearly 100,000 California veterans experience post traumatic stress disorder and more than 300,000 California veterans experience food insecurity.
- Over 10,000 California veterans, many suffering from PTSD, are homeless and on the streets. Prop 1 will provide \$1 billion in new, dedicated funding to build more supportive housing and serve veterans experiencing homelessness, mental health and substance abuse issues.

"With Proposition 1 and recently passed mental health reforms, California is making good on the promise of a robust mental health system that best serves those in need - including our veterans," **said Senator Susan Talamantes Eggman (D-Stockton)**. "Today is a day we honor those who have served our country and by passing Proposition 1, we will ensure we honor our veterans every day, with dedicated funding to support their needs."

“On this Veterans Day, it’s important to remember that California still has over 10,000 veterans experiencing homelessness,” **said Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin (D- Thousand Oaks)**. “While we have made progress, getting our most vulnerable veterans into needed treatment for behavioral health challenges will be transformative. I look forward to working with the Governor and Senator Eggman, to pass Proposition 1 in March to make this transformation a reality.”

Proposition 1 - Treatment not Tents - is a bond initiative and mental health system reform that will appear on the March 2024 ballot. The major overhaul to California’s mental health funding system and \$6.4 billion bond will expand access for hundreds of thousands of Californians, fund substance abuse treatment, and help get those suffering from mental health crises off the streets and into care.

“There are over 10,000 homeless veterans in California— many suffering from PTSD or other mental health issues without access to the proper resources that could help them,” **said Rocio Palmero, Women Vets on Point Program Coordinator for U.S.Vets**. “This ballot measure will build thousands of new homes for Californians, complete with the mental health services they need and help remove the stigma of mental health needs and replace it with holistic solutions.”

“Today, I remember my brother, a retired Army Lieutenant Colonel, who sadly died by suicide after 25 years of service. After seeing how hard it is for so many brother and sister veterans and their family members to transition back to civilian life, we started the Veteran Mentor Project, Inc,” **said James Espinoza, President & Co-Founder of The Veteran Mentor Project, Inc.** “Transition from service can be a lifelong process and requires a strong foundation to build on. As a veteran myself, I know this to be true. Good mental health and overall wellness, including housing security and addiction support, are critical for a successful transition, that’s why we are proud to support Proposition 1. This important, common sense, behavioral health reform initiative will provide much needed funding to support those in need of behavioral health services including our veterans. Proposition 1 will undoubtedly help make the transition from service to civilian life healthier and more successful for our veterans and their families in the future.”

“While California has made significant headway in helping veterans experiencing homelessness, more still needs to be done, and Proposition 1 provides a solution for our heroes,” **said Stephen Peck, President, California Association of Veteran Service Agencies**. “New funding that prioritizes care for mental health coupled with dedicated housing resources for veterans will restore stability and provide a life of dignity for our service men and women.”

For more information, visit the Proposition 1 website at www.treatmentnottents.com