May 4, 2020

Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard
40th United States House of Representatives District
2083 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Roybal-Allard,

As the Mayor for the City of Paramount, I am writing to express support for H.R. 6515, the Rent and Mortgage Cancellation Act, that you have cosponsored. H.R. 6515 extends relief to homeowners and renters during these challenging times. In addition to homeowners, Paramount has a significant population of renters (61% of our housing stock) who face mounting financial hardship related to the global COVID-19 pandemic.

The City of Paramount applauds Congress on the passage of the CARES Act, which provides financial assistance to meet the immediate needs of individuals and small businesses. The CARES Act further provides that lenders and financial institutions should work with borrowers to offer some sort of mortgage relief by deferring payment.

The Rent and Mortgage Cancellation Act augments the CARES Act by taking action to ensure that financial institutions provide borrowers a full payment forgiveness, with no accumulation of debt for renters or homeowners as they face mounting financial hardship related to the global COVID-19 pandemic. It also complements our local rental assistance efforts by canceling rent payments retroactive to April 2020.

California’s local leaders are on the frontlines of responding to the outbreak of the COVID-19 in their communities, doing what is necessary to ensure the health and safety of their residents. They will continue to be for some time. We must concurrently protect our community’s financial and housing future. I fully support your efforts to enact H.R. 6515 to ensure they have the resources to stay in their homes, especially as we attempt to emerge and recover from the crippling impact of this pandemic.

Peggy Lemons Mayor

cc: Kristine Guerrero, League of California Cities, kguerrero@cacities.org