



Clergy & Laity United  
for Economic Justice

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Board of Supervisors  
County of Santa Barbara  
105 East Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

December 11, 2016

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

CLUE SB asks for your vote on December 13th to pass the resolution to implement the Stepping Up Initiative to reduce the number of people with mental illness in our county jail.

In 2014 over 800 residents signed our CLUE SB petition in support of alternatives to jail for people with mental illness. Next Tuesday, you have an initiative providing an action plan to accomplish this goal.

Thank you for your approval in August of the Behavioral Wellness county facilities plan for providing diverse housing and services to meet the needs of those with mental illness in our county. Finally we are addressing the deep concern of our interfaith and religious communities, the injustice of failing to provide humane and appropriate alternatives to people with mental illness suffering on our streets, in jail and emergency rooms.

With a county alternative housing and services plan approved, we have completed one critical step for our county to be ready to implement this Stepping Up Initiative.

Continuing to work together with the current stakeholders, CLUE SB is committed to advocating for your passing this initiative and helping with its implementation.

This is a historic year for compassionate action through a significant system change in Santa Barbara County. The change action plan begins with your vote to pass this Stepping Up Initiative to reduce the number of people with mental illness in our county jail.

Sincerely,  
Maureen Earls, CLUE SB President