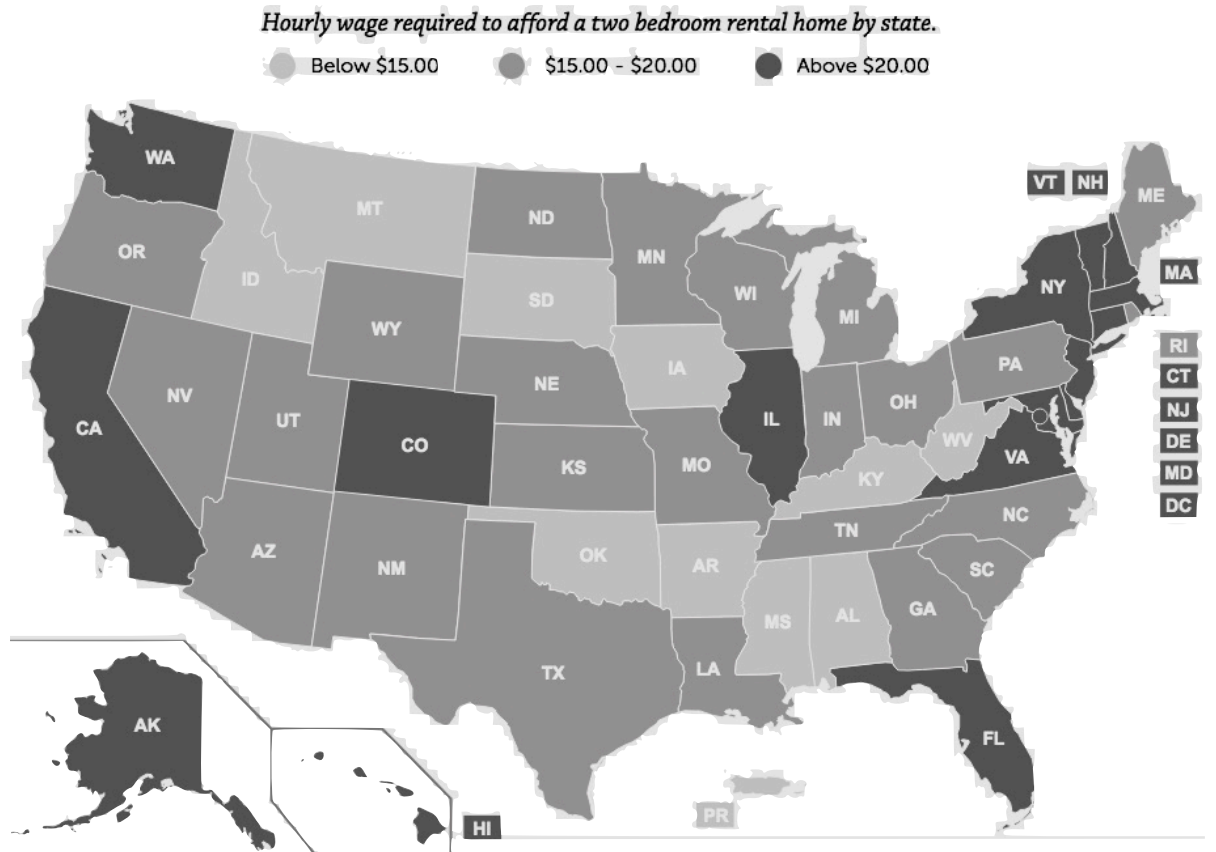## California is 3rd highest in Unaffordable Housing

Working at a minimum wage of $10.50/hour:

Each week you would have to work 92 Hours To afford a modest 1 bedroom rental home at "Fair Market" Rent:

1-Bedroom "Fair Market" Rent: $1,261/mo
2-Bedroom "Fair Market" Rent: $1,608/mo

Fair <u>affordable</u> Rent for Low Income Households would be more like:

Worker Earning Average Wage: $1,074/mo
Minimum Wage Worker: $546/month

Hourly wage required to afford a two bedroom rental home by state.

Below $15.00 $15.00 - $20.00   Above $20.00

More details @ *nlihc.org*

California Leads The Nation In Poverty

One in five Californians live in poverty, according to a new U.S. Census Bureau report.

Using the Supplemental Poverty Measure, which accounts for regional cost-of-living, the average poverty rate in California from 2014 through 2016 stood at 20.4 percent, the highest among the states and second only to the District of Columbia's 21 percent average. The national average over that period of time was 14.7 percent.

Despite boasting one of the largest economies in the world, California has consistently topped national rankings of poverty. While the state only accounts for about 12 percent of the national population, for example, Californians comprise one-third of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families beneficiaries.

One of the largest factors driving California's shamefully high poverty rates is the high cost of housing.

According to a draft report on the housing crisis by the California Department of Housing and Community Development, "production averaged less than 80,000 new homes annually over the last 10 years, and ongoing production continues to fall far below the projected need of 180,000 additional homes annually."

As a result, homeownership rates are at the lowest they've been since the 1940s, as increasing proportions of renters find themselves rent-burdened. According to the California Budget & Policy Center, more than half of renter households pay more than 30 percent of their incomes for housing, and one-third pay more than half of their incomes for housing.

This situation, which also contributes to California's unfortunate distinction of being home to approximately 22 percent of the nation's homeless population, has imposed significant hardships on millions of people across the state, and exacerbated California's high poverty rate.

'GREAT REBUILDING'

Senate Outbids Trump's Military Budget.

One of the most controversial proposals put forward by Sen. Bernie Sanders during the 2016 presidential campaign was a pledge to make tuition free at public colleges and universities. Critics from both parties howled that the pie-in-the-sky idea would bankrupt the country. Where, after all, would the money come from?

Those concerns were brushed aside, as the Senate overwhelmingly approved an $80 billion annual increase in military spending, enough to have fully satisfied Sanders's campaign promise. Instead, the Senate handed President Donald Trump far more than the $54 billion he asked for. The lavish spending package gives Trump a major legislative victory, allowing him to boast about fulfilling his promise of a

"Great rebuilding of the armed services."

The bill would set the U.S.'s annual military budget at around $700 billion, putting it within range of matching the spending level at the height of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

To put that in further perspective: If the package becomes law, U.S. military spending would exceed the total spending of its next 10 rivals put together, going off of 2016 military spending estimates from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

Put another way, with a $700 billion military budget, the U.S. would be spending more than three times as much as China on its military, and 10 times as much as Russia. According to SIPRI, the U.S. already accounts for more than a third of all military spending.

Or with $80 billion a year, you could make public colleges and universities in the U.S. tuition-free. In fact, Sanders's proposal was only estimated to cost the federal government $47 billion per year.

If the additional military spending over the next 10 years instead went to pay off student debt, it could come close to wiping it out entirely.

But proposals like that are written off as nonstarters, even by Democrats. In her new book, Hillary Clinton compares Sanders's idea to him nonsensically saying "America should get a pony." And while concerns about the cost of ponies abound, few Democrats are raising similar concerns about military spending, even when it is meant for a commander-in-chief they consider reckless and unstable.

The Senate voted 89-8, with three senators not voting, to approve the military money. Spendthrift Sanders joined only four other Democratic senators to vote against the bill: **Kirsten Gillibrand** of New York, **Patrick Leahy** of Vermont, and **Jeff Merkley** and **Ron Wyden** from Oregon. Republicans **Bob Corker** of Tennessee, **Rand Paul** of Kentucky, and **Mike Lee** of Utah also voted against it.

When Trump submitted a budget proposal in March, which cut social spending dramatically to fund a $54 billion increase in defense spending, Democrats criticized it as a nonstarter. Senate Minority Leader **Chuck Schumer** said he *"emphatically opposed"* the blueprint, and House Minority Leader **Nancy Pelosi** said the budget *"throws billions of dollars at defense while ransacking"* health and education funding.

Before the bill becomes law, it is has to be reconciled with the version the House already passed, which contains a similar $77 billion spending increase. It is likely to become law by the end of the year.

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