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Supervisor Mandelman introduces legislation to build more residential care facilities

SAN FRANCISCO — District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman introduced legislation today to make it easier to open new residential care facilities for seniors and people with disabilities, also known as board and care homes.

"Over the last five years we have lost 19 such board and care facilities in San Francisco, and with them hundreds of beds," said Mandelman. "As our population ages and as we redouble our efforts to move the most vulnerable homeless people off the streets and into care, the loss of these beds represents an urgent challenge."

Mandelman thanked his colleague, Supervisor Norman Yee, for his focus on this issue, as well as the Mayor for identifying an additional $1,000,000 to commit to stabilizing the remaining board and care facilities in this year's budget.

Mandelman anticipates the Long Term Care Coordinating Council's Residential Care Facilities Work Group will be presenting recommendations for the City to address this need going forward, but sees the legislation today as important interim step. Specifically, the legislation will eliminate the conditional use requirement for Board and Care facilities serving seven or more residents in a number of zoning districts, not including RH-1 and RH-2 districts.

The issue carries personal importance for Mandelman, whose mother struggled with serious mental illness and spent much of her life in board and care homes.

"Of course these zoning changes alone will not be enough to stem and reverse the loss of these critically important facilities" said Mandelman. "Streamlining the planning approval process won't make a difference if we do not otherwise promote development of the many more board and care homes we need. That will require a significant commitment of new public resources, and I hope that the city can make this a top priority in the months and years ahead."

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