



The Honorable Tom Cole
U.S. House of Representatives
H-307, The Capitol
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
U.S. House of Representatives
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

April 23, 2024

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

Housing affordability is top-of-mind for Americans in every district. From the biggest cities to our smallest towns, there is not a single state or Congressional district in the country with enough affordable housing to meet demand. As Congress considers Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 appropriations, we write on behalf of our constituents to ensure that a final package provides housing assistance and keeps Americans in their homes. As New Democrat Coalition Members we are committed to finding bipartisan solutions that empower all of our constituents and look forward to engagement with the committee to deliver federal funding for Fiscal Year 2025.

Building Housing Supply

Fundamentally, there are not enough homes in the places that Americans want to live, work, and raise a family. The shortage is most acute among households paid the lowest wages, who face a shortage of over 7.3 million units of affordable, available housing. Federal funds are a powerful incentive to remove barriers and support housing development so all Americans can make their lives where they want. In support of housing supply, we ask that the Committee provide funding in line with the President's FY25 Budget Request of:

- \$1.3 billion for the HOME Investment Partnerships Program; and
- \$1.3 billion to support efforts to boost Tribal housing supply.

We also ask that your support \$150 million for competitive funds targeted to Tribes with the greatest needs. Further, we ask that you support robust funding for other critical programs that incentivize housing development, including the national Housing Trust Fund, Neighborhood Housing Tax Credit, the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, and the PRICE housing program for manufactured housing. We also request robust funding for the Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing Program based on NDC Vice Chair Derek Kilmer's *YIMBY Act*.

Keeping Americans Housed

While we work to address the lack of housing options available, we must ensure that households can afford to keep a roof over their heads and are not forced out of their homes. In the long-run, housing stabilization and assistance programs save the federal government money and improve the quality of life for all constituents by preventing housing instability and homelessness. In support of keeping Americans in their homes, we ask that the Committee provide increased funding for vital rental and homelessness assistance programs:

- Full funding to renew all existing contracts for the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program and expand assistance to 20,000 more households.
- \$16.7 billion for Project-Based Rental Assistance;
- \$6.2 billion for public housing operations and \$5.135 billion for public housing capital needs;
- \$4.7 billion for Homeless Assistance Grants;
- \$931 million for Section 202 Housing for the Elderly;
- \$257 million for Section 811 Housing for Persons with Disabilities.

Another critical support for low-income Americans has been the Eviction Prevention Grant Program, which offers legal services to defend against illegal evictions and find mutually beneficial outcomes with landlords. We ask that the Committee include \$100 million in funding for this program, to continue the program's essential work.

Getting Better Data

To better inform federal housing efforts and ensure efficient use of federal funds, we ask that the Committee include language recommending that the Census Bureau consider adding supplemental modules or additional questions to existing federal survey efforts like the American Community Survey, American Housing Survey, and Household Pulse Survey to better understand the scope of residential displacement. We therefore request the following report language be included in the FY25 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies appropriations bill:

“The Committee is keenly aware of the significant challenges a lack of data causes in understanding the scope of U.S. housing loss, otherwise known as residential displacement, and making federal housing decisions to address it. Many communities are facing a crisis of evictions, foreclosures, and other forms of housing loss, however we do not know the full scale of this crisis because the Federal government does not track residential displacement. The Committee requests that, within 90 days of enactment, the Census Bureau provide an overview of questions related to forced moves at the household level that are currently included in an existing federal survey instrument, for example, the American Community Survey, American Housing Survey, or the Household Pulse Survey; recommendations for additional data

modules to existing federal surveys to better understand how many individuals experienced housing loss in the prior year, and for what reason; and recommendations to Congress on what additional resources and authorities are necessary to develop and deploy these additional data modules”

Americans everywhere deserve a high quality of life that housing stability is foundational to. We hope the Committee will support these commonsense programs to uplift American communities and enable them to share in the American Dream of stable and secure housing.

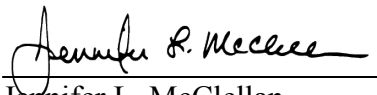
Sincerely,



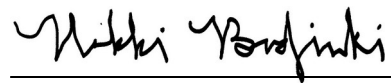
Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress



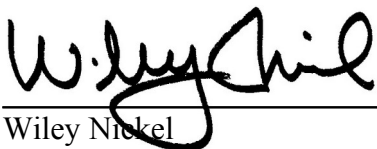
Jimmy Panetta
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Greg Stanton
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Bradley Scott Schneider

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Member of Congress