



September 4, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson and Leader Jeffries:

As you deliberate on FY 2026 appropriations, we write to urge you to defend funding for historically bipartisan housing-related anti-discrimination programs, including the Federal Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP), Fair Housing Assistance Program (FHAP), and the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, which are proposed to be defunded or severely underfunded in the released appropriations bills. As the affordable housing crisis continues to impact Americans across the country, we cannot undermine federal programs that ensure each person gets a fair chance to buy, rent, or sell a home at a fair price.

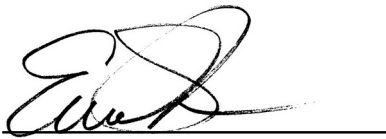
The proposed FY26 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill eliminates the entirety of the current \$56,000,000 in funding for FHIP, funds FHAP at \$26,000,000, and cuts \$34,900,000 from the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity. Without proper programmatic resources, Congress cannot be sure that the Department is fully enforcing the Fair Housing Act as mandated by law.

To begin, the budgetary [justification](#) for the Department of Housing and Urban Development fair housing programs are misleading. They are based on incorrect information that state and local enforcement agencies process the majority of the nation's fair housing complaints through the Fair Housing Assistance Program (FHAP). [Research](#) instead shows that the majority of complaints, almost 75%, are processed through FHIP, which provides funding for housing organizations and other non-profits to assist people who believe they've been victims of housing discrimination. These organizations have more flexibility to conduct outreach, investigations, and proactive approaches, putting them in a leading position to fight discrimination. In fact, these local fair housing organizations process complaints at a 3:1 rate of all other government agencies combined - of the 34,150 complaints filed in the United States in 2023, 25,789 were processed through fair housing organizations while HUD, FHAP agencies, and DOJ processed 8,361 complaints combined.

On top of this, FHAP, which funds state and local agencies that enact and enforce their own statutes to protect housing rights and promote fair housing, is already underfunded with 12 states and many localities not having a FHAP agency in place to fight discrimination. The proposed cuts in the FY26 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, alongside reductions in other opportunity-based programs, would deny housing opportunities free of discrimination for seniors, disabled veterans, people with disabilities, people of color, families with children, women, people of faith, LGBTQ+ people, and more.

The Fair Housing Act is a federal success story, one borne out of years of abuse of Americans' rights by people looking to make an illicit profit and harm their fellow citizens. Undermining programs that protect the rights of Americans against discrimination in housing will only serve to exacerbate the housing crisis and deny equal opportunity to Americans looking to get a fair deal on their housing choices. In light of the flawed budgetary justifications and the critical need for these programs, we write to ask for your support for the continuation and proper funding of these initiatives.

Sincerely,



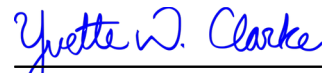
Emilia Strong Sykes
Chair
New Democrat Coalition
Housing Task Force



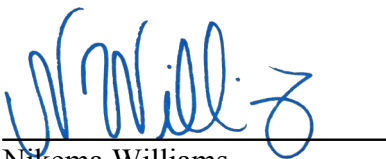
Adriano Espaillat
Chair
Congressional Hispanic
Caucus



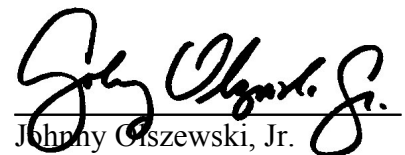
Grace Meng
CAPAC Chair




Yvette D. Clarke
Chair
Congressional Black Caucus



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



Johnny Ciszewski, Jr.
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



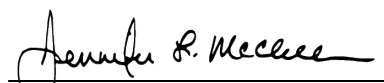
Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross
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Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Jennifer L. McClellan
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Juan Vargas
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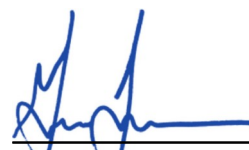
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Nanette Diaz Barragán
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Pablo José Hernández
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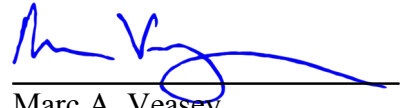
Dan Goldman
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Gregory W. Meeks
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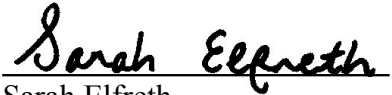
Andre Carson
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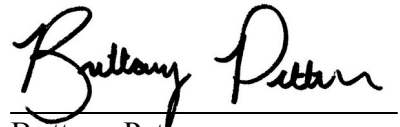
Robert J. Menendez
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Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress



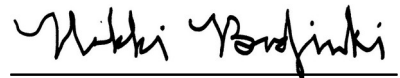
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Brittany Pettersen
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Marilyn Strickland
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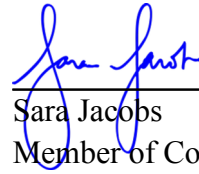
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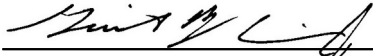
Julia Brownley
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Val Hoyle
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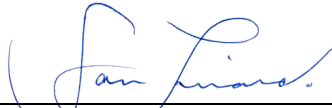
Sara Jacobs
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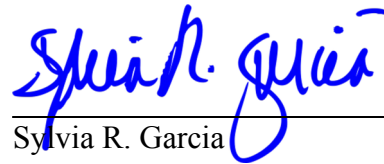
Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress



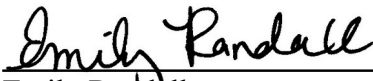
Suhas Subramanyam
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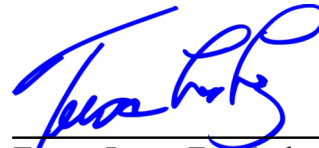
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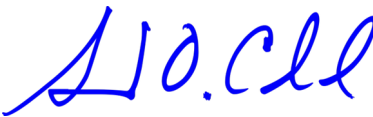
Sylvia R. Garcia
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Emily Randall
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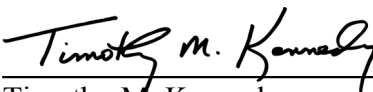
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