



## **Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding**

*Working to ensure maximum federal resources for housing and community development.*

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July 22, 2013

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Vice Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations THUD Subcommittee  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations THUD Subcommittee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Mikulski, Vice Chair Shelby, Subcommittee Chair Murray, and Subcommittee Ranking Member Collins:

The undersigned organizations are members of the Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding (CHCDF), a group of more than 70 national groups representing all 56 states and territories, dedicated to strong federal housing and community development funding for lower-income families and communities. We write to congratulate you on your work to produce a bipartisan Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) appropriations bill, S. 1243, that, under difficult fiscal circumstances, makes a positive contribution to the ability of Americans to afford decent housing and live in communities that are healthy and productive.

HUD programs that are preserved and protected in the Senate bill have important positive impacts on the wellbeing of Americans, particularly those who face poverty, disability, and other vulnerabilities. These are not the people upon whose backs the federal budget should be balanced. The \$10 billion difference between the Senate and House bills demonstrates that without a reasonable 302(b) allocation of funding for HUD programs, it would have been impossible for the Senate to avoid burdening these vulnerable households.

HUD's work also has a broader positive impact for all Americans. Investment in safe, decent, and affordable housing and more vibrant communities improves child well-being, enhances educational achievement, improves health, lowers crime, and increases employment access and stability. In both the short and long term, funding of housing and community development programs decreases costs for federal, state and local governments. HUD's programs are crucial to preventing hardship and fostering economic recovery, as they address basic needs of our nation's residents.

The Senate's THUD bill would help pull HUD programs back from the abyss created by underfunding and sequestration in recent fiscal years. Hundreds of news reports from around the country have already demonstrated that sequestration of HUD programs is harming many low income vulnerable Americans. The frequency and gravity of these impacts will continue to increase as sequestration cuts are further implemented. We thank the Senate Committee on Appropriations for doing its part, on a bipartisan basis, to correct this mistake for vulnerable Americans. We urge the full Senate to pass this important legislation because of its support for HUD funding.

Sincerely,

Community Action Partnership  
Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Housing Task Force  
Council of Large Public Housing Authorities  
Council of State Community Development Agencies  
CSH  
Enterprise Community Partners  
Habitat for Humanity International  
Housing Assistance Council  
LeadingAge  
Local Initiatives Support Corporation  
Lutheran Services in America  
Mercy Housing, Inc.  
National AIDS Housing Coalition  
National Alliance of Community Economic Development Associations  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
National Alliance to End Homelessness  
National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials  
National Center for Healthy Housing  
National Center for Housing & Child Welfare  
National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development  
National Community Development Association  
National Council of State Housing Agencies  
National Disability Rights Network  
National Fair Housing Alliance  
National Housing Conference  
National Housing Trust  
National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty  
National Leased Housing Association  
National Low Income Housing Coalition  
National NeighborWorks Association  
National Network to End Domestic Violence  
Poverty & Race Research Action Council  
Public Housing Authorities Directors Association  
Rebuilding Together  
Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future  
The Arc of the United States  
The Community Builders

cc: The Honorable Harry Reid  
The Honorable Mitch McConnell