

September 6, 2018

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Chair  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Transportation, Housing  
Development, and Related Agencies  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Transportation, Housing  
Development, and Related Agencies  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart  
Chair  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Transportation, Housing  
and Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Price  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Transportation, Housing  
and Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs Collins and Diaz-Balart and Ranking Members Reed and Price:

I am writing on behalf of the National Housing Conference to thank you for your work to advance an appropriations bill for FY 2019. This important legislation renews most of the funding levels provided to the Department of Housing and Urban Development in the FY 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act and includes several other provisions that help states, localities, individuals, families and seniors meet their housing and community development needs. As you negotiate a final agreement, we urge you to maintain the highest funding levels possible for the HUD title of the bill.

The National Housing Conference is the oldest housing advocacy coalition in the United States. Founded in 1931, NHC is an alliance of nearly 200 housing leaders including builders, realtors, investors, lenders, housing advocates and developers, both for-profit and nonprofit. NHC convenes and collaborates with our diverse membership and the broader housing and community development sectors to advance our policy, research and communications initiatives to effect positive change at the federal, state and local levels. Politically diverse and nonpartisan, NHC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

We appreciate that both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees have proposed increases for affordable housing and community development programs administered under the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). However, given the affordable housing crisis our nation is facing, we ask that you fund affordable housing and community development programs at the higher of the levels proposed in the House and Senate bills.

We also encourage you to support the Senate-passed provision that increases the funding for service coordinators for HUD's Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program from \$75 million to \$80 million. FSS offers financial coaching to residents of assisted housing plus escrow accounts that capture their

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increased rent payments due to increased earnings. Participating families can use these savings to meet their goals when they graduate from the program. Currently, there are 75,000 families enrolled in FSS, a fraction of the families receiving HUD rental assistance.

Finally, we encourage you to adopt in the final bill an important provision included in the House version of the bill, the Housing Choice Voucher Mobility Demonstration program. This demonstration, recently approved by the full House with wide bipartisan support, will go a long way in achieving the full promise of the HCV program in addressing intergenerational poverty by improving families' access to safe neighborhoods with quality schools and other opportunities. We urge you to consider the inclusion of \$50 million for the demonstration, which will fund an additional 2,000 vouchers for families and provide critical services that help families move to areas of opportunity.

Thank you for considering these important issues as the THUD spending bill moves forward.

Sincerely,



David M. Dworkin  
President and CEO