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4TH DISTRICT, WISCONSIN

COMMITTEE ON
FINANCIAL SERVICES
HOUSING AND INSURANCE
MONETARY POLICY AND TRADE, RANKING MEMBER
COMMITTEE ON BUDGET
DEMOCRATIC STEERING AND
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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

March 15, 2016

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing, and Related Agencies
H-307 Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Price
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing, and Related Agencies
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Support the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants Program

Dear Chairman Diaz-Balart and Ranking Member Price:

As you develop the Fiscal Year 2017 (FY17) Transportation, Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill, we urge you to strongly support the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Homeless Assistance Grants programs and to fully implement the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act, signed into law in 2009.

As our nation continues to emerge from years of persistent economic turmoil, homelessness continues to be an unrelenting and unacceptable social problem. According to the most recent Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress, released November 2015, there are an estimated 564,708 people experiencing homelessness on any given night in America. Among those numbers are 206,286 people in families (including children) and 83,170 chronically homeless individuals. With homeless systems already strained and persistent economic difficulties leading to more people needing help, providing \$2.664 billion for homeless assistance programs must be a priority so that we can ensure all individuals and families who are facing homelessness will soon have a place to call home.

The passage of the HEARTH Act in 2009 heralded big changes for homeless assistance systems by restructuring the systems to better incorporate proven, efficient solutions, while putting a better emphasis on data and doing what we know works. The overarching goal of the homeless assistance system is to move families and individuals into permanent housing in the fastest and most cost-effective ways possible. Despite economic hardship, decreases in family homelessness have been achieved, and homelessness among veterans and chronically homeless individuals

has fallen dramatically in recent years, demonstrating that these programs can get the job done when we invest in them.

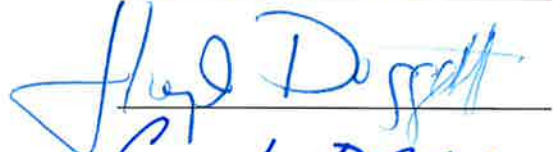
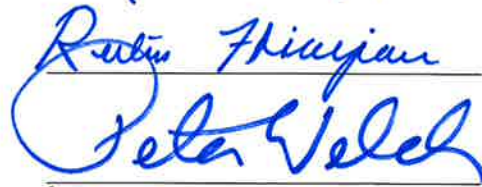
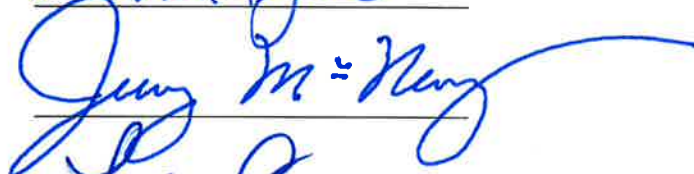
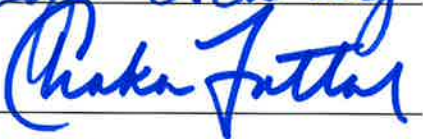
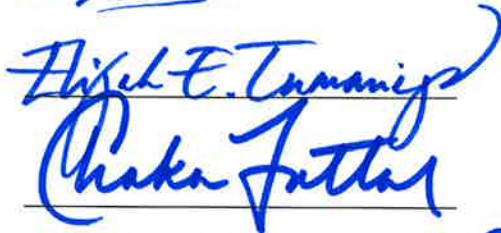
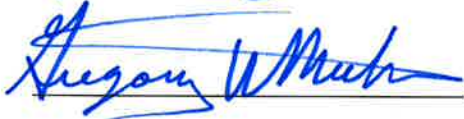
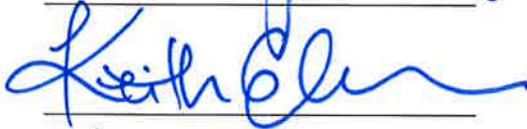
As we continue to address our nation's economic woes, it is important that we continue bipartisan efforts to make progress in the fight against homelessness. Therefore, please join me to request that the House Appropriations Committee fully implement the HEARTH Act and to fund HUD's Homeless Assistance Grants programs in the FY17 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill at the requested \$2.664 billion. This would finish the job of ending chronic homelessness by funding an additional 25,500 new units of permanent supportive housing. It would also make progress on ending family homelessness by funding an additional 8,000 units of rapid re-housing. Finally, it would expand initiatives to test innovative projects to find out the most effective strategies for ending youth homelessness.

Thank you for considering this important request and for your continuing leadership in helping to prevent and end homelessness in the United States.

Sincerely,



GWEN MOORE
Member of Congress



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