**Community Sign On Letter Template:**

Dear Senator/Rep. X,

We are reaching out on behalf of (“jurisdiction name here”) to express our concern about the issue of homelessness in (“X state” for Senators/ “your district” for Representatives). On any given night in (“community”), (“most recent overall homelessness PIT count #”) people experience homelessness. This includes vulnerable members of our community such as veterans, families with children, chronically homeless people with disabilities, and unaccompanied youth. (If any of these populations is a particular concern for your community, explain here).

While an increasing gap between incomes and rents for many of the most vulnerable members of our community continues to cause people to become homeless, our community has recently (if #’s decreasing: “made progress in reducing the number of people who experience homelessness”/if numbers steady or increasing: “improved our response to homelessness)”. We have accomplished this by shifting our approaches to more effective Housing First interventions which have been supported and incentivized by Congress and HUD.

(Share how increasing your rapid re-housing capacity has made your community’s efforts more efficient, how effective permanent supportive housing has been at ending homelessness for the most vulnerable people in your community, or innovative examples of leveraging federal funding with private and city/county/state dollars.)

This is a broad community effort. (Share here the involvement of private sector and faith-based partners and/or local government in your work to end homelessness). However, federal funding provided by HUD’s McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants program and other targeted homeless assistance programs is essential in our fight against homelessness, and without funding and support from Congress to date, much of our progress would not have been possible. (Explain that these other stakeholders would not have invested without the federal leadership).

It is rare that we understand the solution and have the tools to effectively solve a seemingly intractable social problem. Allowing people to continue to struggle to survive on the streets or to cycle through crisis systems is immoral and expensive. We have greatly appreciated the federal funding provided to allow (“community”) to effectively respond to the crisis of homelessness, and are particularly thankful for the $133 million increase to McKinney in the Fiscal Year 2017 spending bill. However, our work is not done, and we need your support to continue our progress. Current federal funding levels, even when strategically leveraged locally, will not be sufficient for us to end homelessness in our community. There is simply not nearly enough local or private funding to fill the gap and address the full scope of the community’s need.

A $217 million increase to $2.6 billion in FY 18 would house approximately 40,000 more people than last year nationally and allow (community) to (share how increased federal funding could help your community). **We urge you to fund the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants program at least at $2.6 billion in FY 2018.** We also hope you will be able to tour one of our homeless assistance programs and meet with community leaders during the August recess, and will follow up with your office about this. Thank you for your leadership and consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,

**Service Providers:**

**Local and State Elected Officials:**

**Public Officials:**

**Faith-based Partners:**

**Private Sector Partners:**