

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 23, 2025

The Honorable Cindy Hyde-Smith  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing  
and Urban Development, and Related  
Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing  
and Urban Development, and Related  
Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Hyde-Smith and Ranking Member Gillibrand:

As you develop the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill, we urge your continued support for the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) homeless assistance programs. Specifically, we urge you to provide: 1) at least \$4.92 billion for McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants (HAG), including at least \$500 million for Emergency Solutions Grants, 2) at least \$39 billion for Tenant-Based "Section 8" Rental Assistance (TBRA), 3) enough funding to maintain existing vouchers under the Emergency Housing Voucher Program, and 4) consistent funding for HUD's Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Program (HUD-VASH).

Single-family home prices have risen 48% over the past five years, while rents are up around 20% over the same period. This has placed considerable financial strain on Americans across the country. In fact, according to HUD's 2024 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report to Congress, a record number of Americans are now experiencing homelessness. HUD's report found 771,480 people were experiencing homelessness on a single night in 2024, including nearly 150,000 children—a staggering 33% increase from 2023.

Robust funding for TBRA is essential to help more families weather stubbornly high housing costs, while HAG programs have been particularly effective in providing housing and wraparound services that successfully transition individuals experiencing homelessness into permanent housing. These funds also help ensure service providers have the funding they need to hire and retain experienced staff to execute effective homelessness assistance strategies and best serve unhoused individuals and families.

Finally, we must also maintain our long-standing investment in HUD-VASH, which has been extremely successful in assisting veterans who are homeless and their families in finding and sustaining permanent housing. Indeed, since Congress first began appropriating funds for HUD-VASH in FY2008, veterans' homelessness has decreased by nearly 75%. We must do all that we can to ensure that those who have bravely served our country do not then find themselves without a home.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests and we look forward to working with you on the FY 2026 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill.

Sincerely,



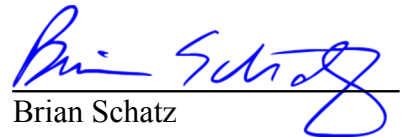
Jack Reed  
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator



Brian Schatz  
United States Senator




Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator



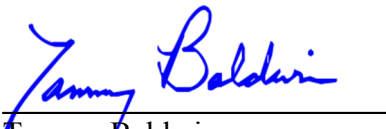
Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



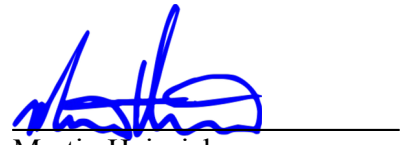
Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



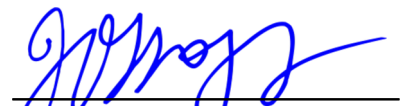
Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator



Jon Ossoff  
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator



Tina Smith  
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock  
United States Senator



Andy Kim  
United States Senator



Ruben Gallego  
United States Senator



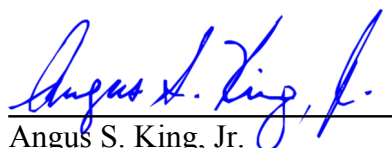
Lisa Blunt Rochester  
United States Senator



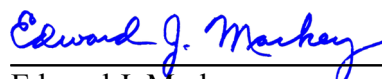
Angela Alsobrooks  
United States Senator



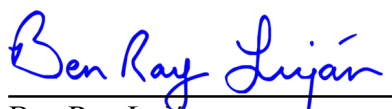
Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



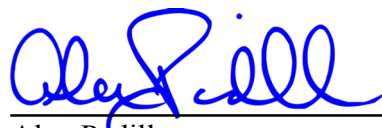
Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator



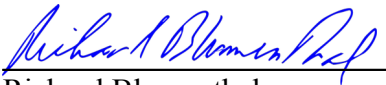
Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



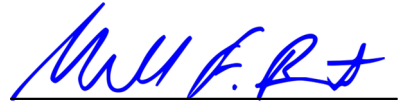
Ben Ray Lujan  
United States Senator



Alex Padilla  
United States Senator



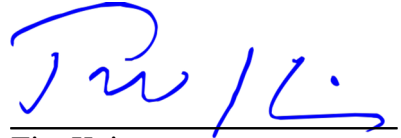
Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



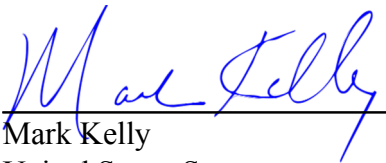
Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator



Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



Mark Kelly  
United States Senator



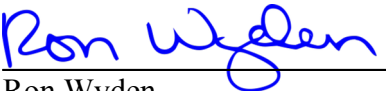
Elissa Slotkin  
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



Adam B. Schiff  
United States Senator



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



Peter Welch  
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



---

Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



---

Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator