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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) 2027 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 \$5.1 billion for McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants (HAG), including at least \$500 million for Emergency Solutions Grants, 2) at least \$45.6 billion for Tenant-Based "Section 8" Rental Assistance (TBRA), including not less than \$400 million for adjustments and to prevent shortfalls, 3) enough funding to maintain existing vouchers under the Emergency Housing Voucher Program, and 4) consistent funding for the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Program (HUD-VASH).

Researchers at the Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard have found that Americans are using greater shares of their income to cover the cost of housing each year. They estimated that one-third of all U.S. households (43 million) dedicated more than 30 percent of their monthly income to housing in 2024. This has placed considerable financial strain on Americans across the country. In fact, according to HUD's most recent 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 fallen 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 2027 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill.

Sincerely,