

May XX, 2018

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

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 Chair Collins, Ranking Member Reed, Chair Diaz-Balart, and Ranking Member Price,

The undersigned organizations are grateful for the increased resources for housing programs in the fiscal year 2018 omnibus spending bill. We urge you to build on these investments as you consider funding levels for HUD's programs in fiscal year 2019. This letter highlights the role HUD's housing programs have in meeting the affordable housing needs of older adults with low incomes.

As you know, HUD's housing programs provide affordable, quality housing to more than 1.5 million seniors. The demand for affordable housing for older adults far out paces supply. Indeed, HUD's 2017 report to Congress on worst case housing needs reveals that 66% of the increase in the nation's number of households with worst case housing needs between 2013 and 2015 was among older adult households.

We support \$600 million for Section 202 Housing for the Elderly new construction funding in FY19 as well as \$30 million in new funding to support Service Coordinators in 500 Section 202 communities that currently do not have them. Expanding the supply of affordable housing with enriched service coordination will allow seniors to age in community.

We support full funding for the renewal of all existing Section 202 homes. This includes at least \$619 million for Section 202 Project Rental Assistance Contract and service Coordinator renewals and at least \$12.2 billion for Section 8 Project-Based Rental Assistance (PBRA) renewals. Section 8 PBRA provides the operating subsidy for about two-thirds of the nation's 400,000 Section 202 homes, in addition to providing ongoing assistance to more than a million additional homes.

We support sufficient funding to renew all 2.2 million Tenant-Based Rental Assistance vouchers; fully 24% of voucher-assisted households are headed by someone 62 or older.

We support sufficient funding and preservation tools for the nation's 1.1 million units of public housing; fully 33% of public housing-assisted households are headed by someone 62 years or older.

We support at least \$2.8 billion for HUD's Homeless Assistance Grants. Homelessness among older adults is on the rise and Homeless Assistance Grants need adequate funding to help prevent homelessness and ensure that any homelessness is as short a duration as possible. According to HUD's *2016 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress (Part 2)*, "The number of sheltered elderly individuals (age 62 or older) increased 48.2% (21,549 more people) between 2007 and 2016."

Finally, we oppose proposals to increase rents for current and future HUD-assisted residents, including seniors, as well as proposals to freeze contract rents for owners of HUD-assisted communities.

Thank you for considering our views. We look forward to working with you on strong HUD funding for fiscal year 2019.

Sincerely,

(undersigned organizations)