

Full name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

America is in the grips of an affordable housing crisis, most severely impacting our nation's lowest-income and most marginalized people, including seniors, people with disabilities, families with children, and other individuals. Nationwide, there is a shortage of 7.3 million homes affordable to households with extremely low incomes. There is no state in America that has enough rental homes for its lowest-income residents.

Major affordable housing programs such as Public Housing and Section 8 as well as HOME and CDBG are the foundation for America's affordable housing. Severe cuts to these programs would destabilize housing and have severe effects on seniors, working families, small children, and individuals with disabilities.

By cutting funding nearly in half, it would immediately reduce the number of households receiving assistance by 2.3 million. For every 10 extremely low-income renters, there are fewer than 4 homes affordable and available to them, so nearly all programs have long waiting lists. It would be more expensive to rehouse or provide services for these individuals after becoming homeless again than it would to keep them housed with appropriate and responsible funding.

The proposed State Rental Assistance Block Grant and the proposed federal budget affecting HUD programs would lead to widespread evictions not only affecting subsidy recipients but also landlords and therefore local businesses. Many public housing authorities would have no choice but to terminate assistance for people who still need help to keep a roof over their heads. Ending HUD assistance would be devastating to our nations most vulnerable populations by destabilizing many programs that society relies on.

As a direct consequence of decimating HUD, homeless shelters will close their doors, communities will stop construction on new projects to build housing and community centers, households receiving rental assistance will face immediate rent increases and evictions, homebuyers will be unable to close on their loans, and

communities, families, and small businesses impacted by disasters will be unable to rebuild.

By implementing the proposed State Rental Assistance Program Block Grant states would have less than five months to establish oversight of infrastructure and design entirely new rental assistance programs—an unrealistic timeline that risks major disruptions for families in need. Moreover, block granting funds could allow states to redirect critical resources to non-housing purposes.

A quality affordable home is a prescription for good health and has been linked to prevention of long-term health problems and promotes healthy, productive lives. Housing supports economic mobility, allowing low-income people to climb up the income ladder and achieve financial stability. By providing housing assistance, we can reduce poverty, increase stability for households, and help avert homelessness, institutionalization, and incarceration.

Funding HUD programs was, and remains, the right thing to do, and is a smart use of federal dollars. We respectfully request that Congress provide sufficient resources to ensure these families don't lose assistance in 2026 and beyond and preserve the federal investments already made, not only in these programs but into the future of the many vulnerable populations that depend on these programs.

More than ever, we need your leadership to advance bold policies to ensure that people with the lowest incomes and the most marginalized people have a stable, affordable home. Please ensure that our communities have the tools we need to house our most vulnerable neighbors.

As your constituent, I ask you to stand with housers and families across the country and protect these vital programs.

Respectfully signed,

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