



September 1, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer,

The National Council of State Housing Agencies (NCSHA) is pleased to express our strong support for the nomination of Pamela Hughes Patenaude to serve as Deputy Secretary of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). We commend President Trump for this outstanding choice. We applaud the Senate Banking Committee for its virtually unanimous vote to approve Patenaude's nomination and urge the full Senate to confirm her appointment early upon its return in September, so she can get to work immediately with HUD Secretary Ben Carson on the many serious affordable housing challenges our country confronts.

NCSHA and our member state Housing Finance Agencies (HFAs) have had the privilege of working with Patenaude in many different housing capacities over several years. We are proud to claim her as one of our own, as she began her esteemed housing career working for the New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority, our New Hampshire HFA member. Since then, she has worked in housing in both the public and private sectors, from many different perspectives, serving in top leadership positions at HUD, the Bipartisan Policy Center, and the J. Ronald Terwilliger Foundation for Housing America's Families.

Previously at HUD, Patenaude led the Office of Community Planning and Development and the Office of Field Policy and Management with distinction. Her later work at the Bipartisan Policy Center as Director of Housing Policy and for the Center's Housing Commission resulted in an outstanding report that powerfully presented the critical and growing affordable housing crisis gripping our country and practical proposals for addressing it. In her most recent role as President of the J. Ronald Terwilliger Foundation for Housing America's Families, Patenaude has demonstrated her commitment to and gift for raising awareness about affordable housing need and the harm it does to families, communities, and the economy.

In these positions—and in others—Patenaude has shown a deep understanding not only of federal housing programs but also of the appropriate roles of federal, state, and local government in delivering housing resources.

NCSHA and our HFA members have enjoyed a strong and productive affordable housing partnership with the federal government over many decades. HUD has been critical to that partnership. We are excited to work with Patenaude to build on that record.

HFAs are most widely known for their safe and sound first-time home buyer lending programs, which provide a reliable source of affordable mortgage money for working families. In addition, HFAs provide low-cost multifamily financing to facilitate the development of affordable rental homes.

HFAs are the federal government’s partner in the administration of several major housing programs, including the Low Income Housing Tax Credit, tax-exempt private activity Housing Bonds, the HOME Investment Partnerships program, and Section 8. They serve the full spectrum of affordable housing need, from homelessness to homeownership.

NCSHA is a national, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that represents the country’s state HFAs and the HFAs of the District of Columbia, New York City, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico before Congress and the Administration. NCSHA has an affiliate membership of more than 300 organizations that partner with HFAs and share their commitment to affordable housing.

We urge you to confirm swiftly Pam Patenaude to be the Deputy Secretary of HUD.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Barbara J. Thompson
Executive Director