



March 30, 2020

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Transportation, Housing and Urban  
Development, and Related Agencies  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Transportation, Housing and Urban  
Development, and Related Agencies  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Collins and Ranking Member Reed:

We write to you to express our strong support for the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME). We are concerned that President Trump's Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 budget proposal eliminates funding for a number of key affordable housing programs, including HOME. During these challenging budgetary times, it is important to maintain our commitment to programs like HOME that contribute to the economic health and security of our communities. We thank you for your past support of this vital affordable housing program, and we appreciate the Subcommittee's rejection of the President's proposed elimination of HOME in FY 2020. We urge the Subcommittee to provide \$1.5 billion for the HOME Investment Partnerships Program for FY 2021.

The HOME program serves as the only federal block grant program for state and local governments that is designed exclusively to produce affordable housing for low-income families. Since 1992, the HOME program has created more than 1.3 million affordable homes and helped provide direct rental assistance to more than 370,000 low-income families. The program provides a flexible resource to meet communities' highest priority affordable housing needs such as tenant-based rental assistance, rehabilitation of affordable rental and ownership housing, and construction of affordable housing. The program also has an exceptionally broad reach, serving urban, suburban, and rural communities and providing vital resources for seniors, persons with disabilities, the homeless, and veterans.

In addition to this extensive impact, the HOME program is also cost effective. According to Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) data, each HOME dollar leverages \$4.45 in other public and private resources. The HOME funds frequently provide critical gap financing for rental housing projects funded by other federal, state, or local entities. Funding for the HOME program has successfully leveraged more than \$152 billion additional public and private funds for affordable housing.

The need for affordable housing has never been greater, and communities across the country are facing increased demands for HOME funding to provide additional gap financing in deals impacted by lower corporate tax rates and the redirection of their HOME funds to respond and rebuild after natural disasters. Despite this need, the HOME program continues to be underfunded. In FY 2020, Congress funded HOME at \$1.35 billion; this level is nearly 25 percent below the funding level provided in FY 2010. The reductions in funding have real and serious consequences for families in need. As communities struggle to continue their affordable housing programs, they have been forced to end critical projects for low- and moderate-income individuals.

Given the important need for affordable housing and the great benefits that HOME provides, we urge you to provide critical support for HOME in the FY 2021 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. We thank you for your consideration of our request, and we look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

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Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator

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Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator

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Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator

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Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator

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Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator

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Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator

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Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator

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Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator

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Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator

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Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator

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Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator

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Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator

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Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator

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Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator

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Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator

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Kamala D. Harris  
United States Senator

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Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator

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Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator

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Mazie Hirono  
United States Senator

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Doug Jones  
United States Senator

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Tim Kaine  
United States Senator

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Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator

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Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator

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Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator

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Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator

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Robert Menendez  
United States Senator

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Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator

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Chris Murphy  
United States Senator

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Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator

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Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator

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Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator

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Brian Schatz  
United States Senator

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Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator

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Kyrsten Sinema  
United States Senator

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Tina Smith  
United States Senator

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Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator

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Jon Tester  
United States Senator

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Tom Udall  
United States Senator

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Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator

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Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator

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Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator

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Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator

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Ron Wyden  
United State Senator