

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

November 14, 2011

The Honorable Tom Latham  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Transportation,  
Housing, and Related Agencies  
H-307 Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Olver  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Transportation,  
Housing, and Related Agencies  
1016 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Latham and Ranking Member Olver:

Thank you for your commitment to expanding resources for preventing and ending homelessness. Based on their proven track record and the number of people experiencing homelessness in our communities, we respectfully urge you to provide an increase in funding for the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants in the final FY 2012 Transportation-HUD Appropriations Act.

Investment in HUD's Homeless Assistance Grants will help prevent and end homelessness in the midst of one of America's deepest economic crises, when we are seeing increasing numbers of people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. According to the most recent data from HUD, nearly 650,000 people are homeless on a given night in America, including nearly 110,000 who are chronically homeless and 241,000 persons in families. HUD also estimates that approximately 76,000 veterans are homeless on a given night. Further increases in homelessness are expected in the coming years if nothing is done. It is simply unacceptable for our nation's heroes, families with children, and others to be sleeping on the streets.

Communities like ours need to make substantial progress in implementing the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act of 2009, a landmark reauthorization of homeless assistance that applies two decades of research, innovation, and experience to improve HUD's homeless assistance programs. It supports solutions like permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless people, which can actually save taxpayer dollars by helping to stabilize people cycling in and out of expensive systems.

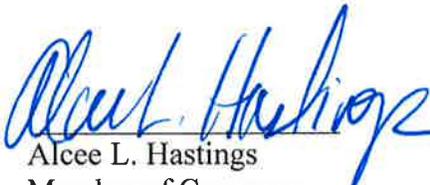
The Recovery Act's Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) has served 1,000,000 people to date, but these funds are running out and homelessness is increasing. The HEARTH Act will allow communities to transition their successful HPRP initiatives into their long-term efforts to prevent and end homelessness and to continue the focus on cost-effective solutions to chronic homelessness. During these tough economic times, we must work to support lasting solutions to homelessness funded through McKinney-Vento programs.

In the October 17, 2011 *Statement of Administration Policy* regarding H.R. 2112, the Senate minibus, the Administration expressed its support for providing additional funds for Homeless Assistance Grants in FY 2012 in order to "enable progress on implementing the

HEARTH Act and the Federal Strategic Plan to End Homelessness.” Funding these important priorities will not only allow our communities serve the increasing number of people in need of assistance, but will also help our communities to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of their homeless assistance systems.

Chairman Latham and Ranking Member Olver, we urge you to provide an increase in funding in the final FY 2012 Transportation-HUD Appropriations Act for the HUD Homeless Assistance Grants program to help the hundreds of thousands of Americans who are homeless each night and to more fully implement the HEARTH Act. Thank you for considering this request, and for your continuing leadership on efforts to prevent and end homelessness in the United States.

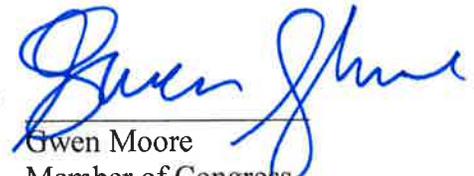
Sincerely,



Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress



Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress



Corrine Brown  
Member of Congress



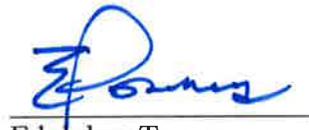
Rubén Hinojosa  
Member of Congress



Luis V. Gutiérrez  
Member of Congress



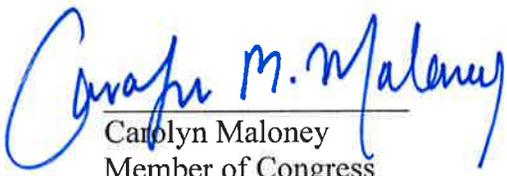
Raul M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



Edolphus Towns  
Member of Congress



Laura Richardson  
Member of Congress



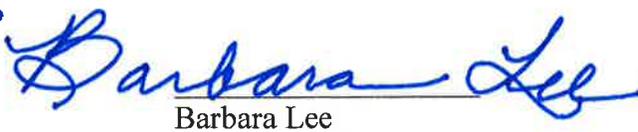
Carolyn Maloney  
Member of Congress



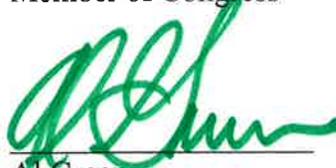
Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress



Pete Stark  
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



Al Green  
Member of Congress



Louise M. Slaughter  
Member of Congress



Bob Filner  
Member of Congress



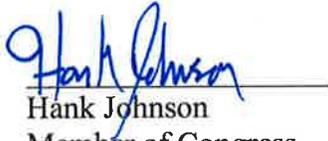
Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress



Chris Van Hollen  
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



Hank Johnson  
Member of Congress



Mazie K. Hirono  
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress



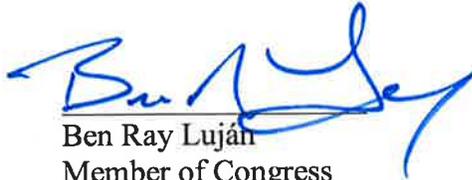
Carolyn McCarthy  
Member of Congress



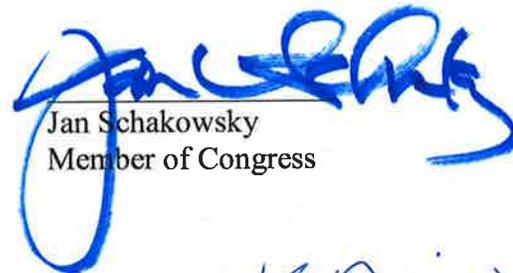
Frederica Wilson  
Member of Congress



Robert Brady  
Member of Congress



Ben Ray Lujan  
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



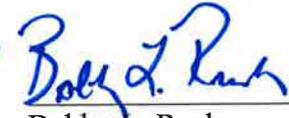
Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



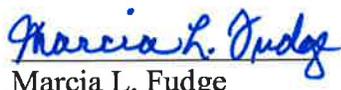
Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress



Madeleine Bordallo  
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress



Marcia L. Fudge  
Member of Congress



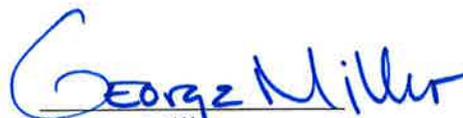
William Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



Jesse L. Jackson Jr.  
Member of Congress



George Miller  
Member of Congress



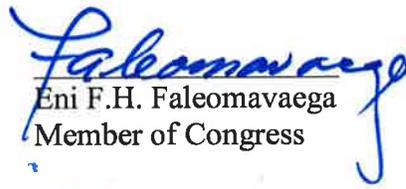
Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress

  
Jim McGovern  
Member of Congress

  
Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress

  
Doris O. Matsui  
Member of Congress

  
Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress

  
Eni F.H. Faleomavaega  
Member of Congress

  
Dennis J. Kucinich  
Member of Congress

  
David Cicilline  
Member of Congress

  
Melvin L. Watt  
Member of Congress

CC: The Hon. John Boehner  
The Hon. Nancy Pelosi  
The Hon. Harold Rogers  
The Hon. Norm Dicks