

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2008

The Honorable John Olver
Chairman, Transportation, Housing and
Urban Development and Related
Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joe Knollenberg
Ranking Member, Transportation, Housing
and Urban Development and Related
Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman and Mr. Ranking Member:

We urge you to fully fund current vouchers within the Section Eight Voucher programs and provide additional funds for new vouchers in the FY 2009 Transportation- HUD Appropriations Act. Both the Tenant-based and Project-based accounts are critically important. Without this level of funding, over 600,000 low-income seniors and families around the country are at serious risk of losing their affordable homes.

Last year, Congress granted the Section Eight programs a level of funding that secured aid for those receiving assistance. Today, the mortgage crisis is putting mounting pressure onto an already strained rental market. Homeowners that lose their homes will have to turn to programs like Section Eight to weather the storm. We must, once again, act on behalf of those that are most vulnerable - too many lives are at stake.

The Section 8 Tenant-based program helps over two million families, seniors and disabled individuals secure safe and affordable homes. Guaranteeing that vouchers in use are fully funded in FY 2009 is critical to the stability of our low-income families. However the need goes beyond active recipients. Waiting lists to enter the program have grown exponentially in the last years. We urge you to provide funds for additional vouchers to meet this unmet demand.

Our affordable housing stock also requires fearless stewards. Recently the Project-based Section Eight program was jeopardized by HUD's continuous late payments and shortfunding of contracts. It is essential that Congress address this threat to critically sought affordable housing units. We must ensure that HUD has sufficient funds for full year contract renewals. Anything less is fiscally irresponsible. The National Housing Trust estimates that the current shortfall threatens the loss of affordable homes for approximately 500,000 low-income families around the country.

Those who are receiving Section Eight aid should continue to do so and additional families should be given the opportunity to find an affordable home. These vouchers provide the foundation for millions of families to maintain employment and achieve economic success. We urge you to fully fund the Tenant-based and Project-based

programs to ensure that our low income families, seniors and disabled can find and retain affordable homes. Thank you for your attention to this matter and your continued support of these important programs.

Sincerely,

Jessie Madler

Allan R. Wynn

Rubén Hinojosa

Bob Fisher

Corine Brown

Chika Fatah

Rosa L. Delarvo

Henry Anagnostis

Edward J. Markey

Gregory W. Weeks

Nydia S. V. Jr

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Emil Quinn

Margie K. Hirono

Tom Allen

Jim McDermott

Jan Schale
Madeline J. Bordella

Jim McEown

Carolyn McCarthy

Mike H. Michaud

R. J. Deloit

Cheryl Stang

Keith Ellison

Yvette D. Clarke

Steve Cohen

Members of Congress who signed the Nadler/Velazquez letter
in support of the Section 8 for both Tenant-Based and Project-Based Programs

1. Jerrold Nadler
2. Nydia Velázquez
3. Yvette D. Clarke
4. Tom Allen
5. Steve Cohen
6. Stephen F. Lynch
7. Silvestre Reyes
8. Rubén Hinojosa
9. Rosa L. DeLauro
10. Peter Defazio
11. Michael R. McNulty
12. Michael H. Michaud
13. Mazie Hirono
14. Maurice Hinchey
15. Madeleine Z. Bordallo
16. Louise McIntosh Slaughter
17. Keith Ellison
18. John D. Dingell
19. Jim McDermott
20. Jay Inslee
21. Janice D. Schakowsky
22. James P. McGovern
23. Henry A. Waxman
24. Gregory W. Meeks
25. Emanuel Cleaver, II
26. Edward J. Markey
27. Earl Blumenauer
28. Donna M. Christensen
29. David Wu
30. Corrine Brown
31. Christopher Shays
32. Chaka Fattah
33. Carolyn McCarthy
34. Bob Filner
35. Betty Sutton
36. Albert Russell Wynn