

October XX, 2014

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Harold Rodgers
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Mikulski, Vice Chairman Shelby, Chairman Rodgers and Ranking Member Lowey,

The undersigned organizations are members of the National Organizing Committee (NOC), a coalition of housing organizations, developers, advocates and agencies committed to creating and maintaining the supply of supportive housing for the most vulnerable populations, urge you to pass a full FY2015 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill. A year-long CR at FY2014 levels will undermine communities' ability to reduce and end homelessness for individuals and families.

Supportive housing is affordable rental housing combined with services to help stabilize families and individuals and enable them to live independently while addressing their most pressing needs. It is a proven cost-effective intervention that significantly reduces the use of emergency shelters, hospitals, emergency rooms, jails and prisons.

HUD's Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) and the McKinney Vento Homelessness Assistance programs are the main resources used for creating and maintaining supportive housing. Both programs allow local communities to make decisions on how best to use resources to address the housing needs to target populations with the highest needs.

Providing sufficient funding for both programs is critical for communities and states to continue to create more affordable housing options for the most vulnerable populations and support critical economic development initiatives. Continued investment in HUD's programs is essential to ending homelessness for all populations and keeping those at-risk of becoming homeless housed.

Affordable housing serves as the platform to transform and improve the lives of the most vulnerable populations. The NOC respectfully requests that Congress pass a full FY2015 T-HUD Appropriations in order to expand supportive housing opportunities and programs across the country.

Sincerely,