

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 23, 2025

The Honorable Steve Womack
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing
and Urban Development, and
Related Agencies
2358-A RHOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James E. Clyburn
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing,
and Urban Development, and
Related Agencies
2083 RHOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Womack and Ranking Member Clyburn:

As you develop the Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development (THUD) appropriations bill, we strongly urge you to provide \$4.922 billion for the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants (HAG) program, which includes \$4.422 billion for Continuum of Care (CoC) Grants and \$500 million for Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG).

HAG funds are critical to supporting a myriad of people vulnerable to experiencing homelessness, including older adults, families with children, including those in peril or threatened with eviction, as well as victims of domestic violence. Additional funding will help keep up the progress being made across our nation in combatting homelessness and continue to support the nonprofits, community action programs, and faith-based groups that partner with state and local governments through these McKinney-Vento programs. Increased funding will also help ensure that these partners can continue to recruit and retain front-line homelessness service workers who are critical to the success of these efforts.

According to HUD's 2024 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress, 771,480 individuals were homeless across our nation on any given night, which is roughly 23 of every 10,000 people in the United States.¹ Homelessness among families with children, individuals, individuals with chronic patterns of homelessness, people staying in unsheltered locations, people staying in sheltered locations, and unaccompanied youth all reached the highest recorded

¹ [The 2024 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report \(AHAR to Congress\) Part 1: Point-In-Time Estimates of Homelessness, December 2024](#)

rates in 2024.² Additionally, approximately 150,000 children experienced homelessness on a single night in 2024, reflecting a 33 percent increase from 2023.³

The combination of a nationwide shortage of affordable housing and higher rent prices is leaving millions of Americans vulnerable to homelessness. To combat this, state and local governments depend on McKinney-Vento programs like the Continuum of Care (CoC) and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) programs. HUD's CoC and ESG programs are used successfully by state and local governments, as well as an extensive network of providers of shelter and housing services, to reduce homelessness.

The CoC and ESG programs fund services for people at risk of, and currently experiencing homelessness, including the development and operation of shelters, outreach efforts to identify unsheltered homeless families and individuals, rapid rehousing (RRH), permanent supportive housing (PSH), and homelessness prevention. RRH emphasizes housing search and relocation services, and short- and medium-term rental assistance to move homeless families and individuals (with or without a disability) as rapidly as possible into permanent housing. PSH is housing assistance paired with supportive services, formulated to assist homeless persons with a disability, or families with a disabled adult, achieve housing stability.

For over a decade, federal policy has emphasized the effectiveness of Housing First, an evidence-based, system-wide approach to homelessness. This approach connects people back to a home as quickly as possible, while making readily available the wraparound services (case management, counseling, healthcare, substance use treatment, job training, etc.) that people may need to be stable and secure. Housing First is the best way to permanently house people, put them in a position to address any underlying issues, and help communities avoid costs associated with homelessness, including law enforcement, emergency healthcare, and corrections costs.

Therefore, we request the following:

1. We ask that you support \$4.922 billion for the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants program, including \$4.422 billion for Continuum of Care (CoC) Grants and \$500 million for Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG), in the House version of the Fiscal Year 2026 Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development Appropriations bill.
2. We ask that you include the following report language in the Transportation, Housing, and Urban development Appropriations bill.

The establishment of a two-year competition period for FY24 and FY25 in the FY24 Consolidated Appropriations Act was a remarkable bipartisan accomplishment that

² Ibid

³ Ibid

allows Continuums of Care to use FY25 to focus resources exclusively on the prevention and reduction of homelessness. We urge the Transportation-HUD Appropriations Subcommittee to work with the Secretary to ensure adherence to the terms of the two-year Notice of Funding Opportunity (NoFO). The CoC competition is a huge administrative undertaking and requiring communities to unexpectedly conduct another competition would be unduly burdensome. The development, administration, and scoring of a NoFO also places considerable demand on HUD staff, which could lead to unnecessary delays in distributing FY25 awards.

3. We ask that you include the following report language in the Transportation, Housing, and Urban development Appropriations bill.

The FY25 Continuing Resolution underfunded the Homeless Assistance Grants program, and the program's appropriation of \$3.457 billion did not keep up with the cost of inflation. The resulting shortfall of \$150-200 million means at least 18,500 households will lose the housing assistance and supportive services that allowed them to stave off homelessness. We urge the Transportation-Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Subcommittee to work with the Secretary to ensure that individual Continuum of Care providers (CoCs) are allowed to decide how to absorb the shortfall. CoC leaders across the nation are familiar with their programs and their communities, and they are in the best position to decide how to adjust services in order to minimize the pain of this critical funding shortfall.

Thank you for considering this important request and for your continued leadership in helping to prevent and end homelessness in the United States.

Sincerely,



Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



Don Bacon
Member of Congress



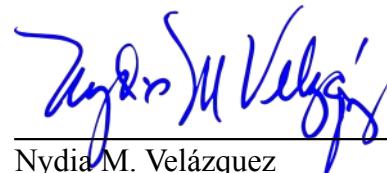
Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Greg Casar
Member of Congress



Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress



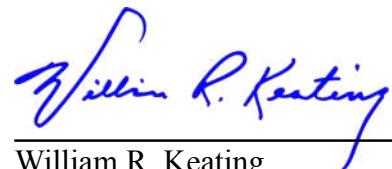
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Lucy McBath
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Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



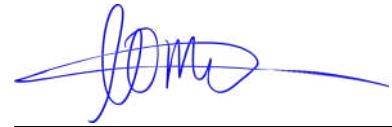
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
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Ilhan Omar
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Gerald E. Connolly
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Danny K. Davis
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Donald S. Beyer Jr.
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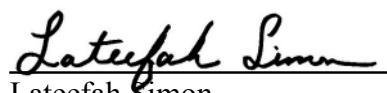
Patrick K. Ryan
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LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



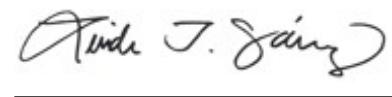
Yassamin Ansari
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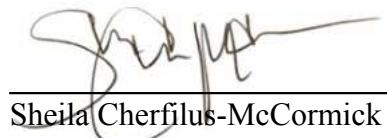
Lateefah Simon
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Pramila Jayapal
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Salud Carbajal
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Morgan McGarvey
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Juan Vargas
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Diana DeGette
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Bradley Scott Schneider
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Joyce Beatty
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Rashida Tlaib
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Jason Crow
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Nikema Williams
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Debbie Dingell
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Brittany Pettersen
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Mary Gay Scanlon

Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman

Jared Huffman
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George Whitesides
Member of Congress



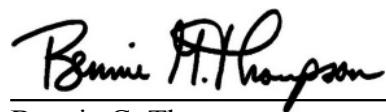
Ted W. Lieu
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Eric Swalwell
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Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



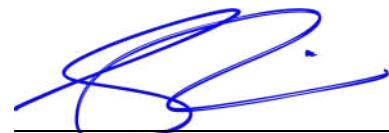
Val Hoyle
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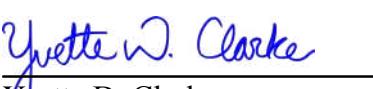
Adam Smith
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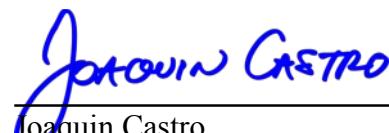
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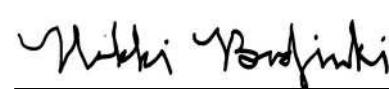
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Rick Larsen

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Mark DeSaulnier

Mark DeSaulnier
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Lori Trahan

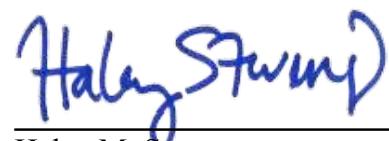
Lori Trahan
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Becca Balint
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Ami Bera, M.D.
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Haley M. Stevens
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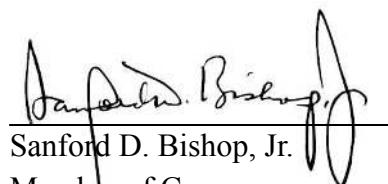
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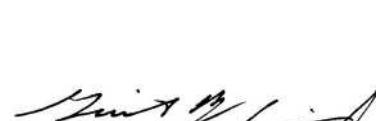
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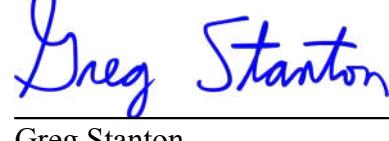
Josh Gottheimer
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George Latimer
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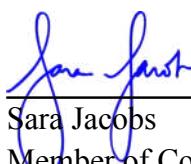
Gregory W. Meeks
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Joe Courtney
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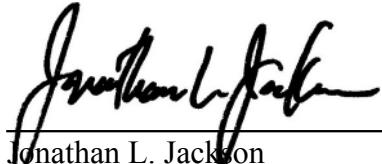
Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



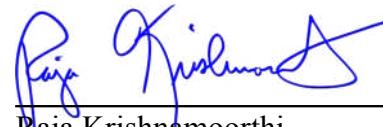
David Scott
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J. Luis Correa
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Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman
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Laura Friedman
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Janelle S. Bynum
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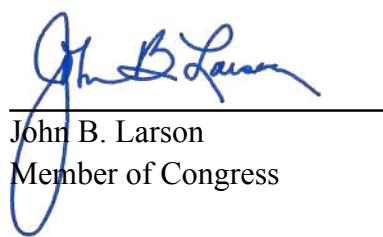
Josh Riley
Member of Congress



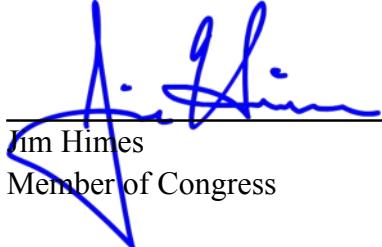
Maxine Dexter
Member of Congress



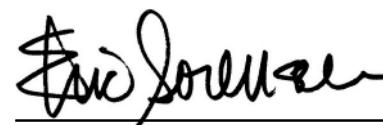
Marilyn Strickland
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Jim Himes
Member of Congress



Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



Andre Carson
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Troy A. Carter, Sr.
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Deborah K. Ross
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Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Valerie P. Foushee
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Shri Thanedar
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Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



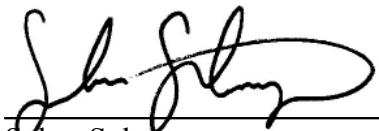
Maxine Waters
Ranking Member
Committee on Financial
Services



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress



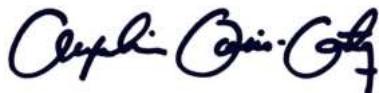
Suhas Subramanyam
Member of Congress



Emily Randall
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



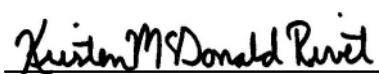
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



Steven Horsford
Member of Congress



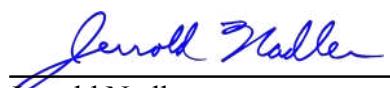
Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Kristen McDonald Rivet
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Wesley Bell
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Pablo José Hernández
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MARK TAKANO
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Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress



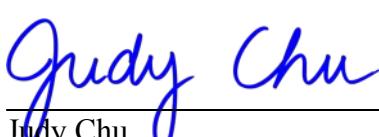
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Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Nellie Pou
Member of Congress