

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 6, 2022

The Honorable Brian Schatz  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing  
and Urban Development, and Related  
Agencies  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing  
and Urban Development, and Related  
Agencies  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Schatz and Ranking Member Collins:

We write to express our strong support for the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME). We thank you for your past support of this vital affordable housing program and urge the Subcommittee to provide \$2.1 billion for the HOME Investment Partnerships Program for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, consistent with the level authorized by Congress.

The HOME program is 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 1.34 million affordable homes and helped provide direct rental assistance to over 400,000 low-income families. The program provides a flexible resource to meet our communities' most critical affordable housing needs such as the production and preservation of rental homes, single-family home construction, homeowner rehabilitation, and tenant-based rental assistance. The program also has an exceptionally broad reach, serving urban, suburban, and rural communities and providing vital resources for seniors, persons with disabilities, people experiencing homelessness, 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 nearly \$5 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. These investments have supported an estimated 1.95 million jobs and generated \$128 billion in local economic impact.

The HOME program has been underfunded in recent years. In FY 2022, Congress funded HOME at \$1.5 billion—the largest allocation for HOME in over a decade. However, this level is nearly 18 percent less than the funding appropriated in FY 2010 and significantly below the authorization level of \$2.1 billion established when HOME was last reauthorized. Meanwhile, home prices have risen dramatically. Recent data indicate that rents are up 13.5 percent over the past year while home prices have risen 19 percent. The nation is not producing nearly enough affordable homes to keep pace with demand, and this shortage has real and serious consequences for families in need.

The HOME program is a proven and effective tool to fill this gap and add to our supply of both rental and for-sale units. Given the urgent need to produce more affordable housing, we urge you to provide the necessary support for HOME in the FY 2023 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. Thank you for your consideration of our request, and we look forward to working with you.

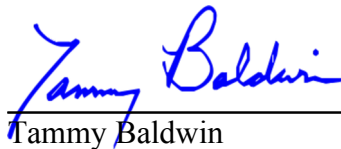
Sincerely,



Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



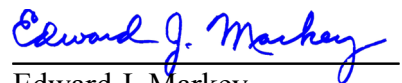
Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



Alex Padilla  
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator




Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



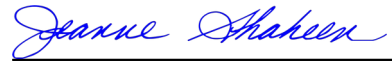
Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator



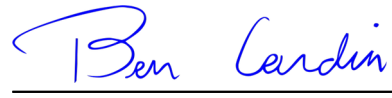
Tina Smith  
United States Senator



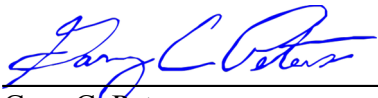
Robert Menendez  
United States Senator



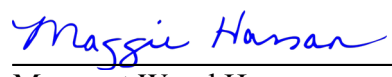
Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator



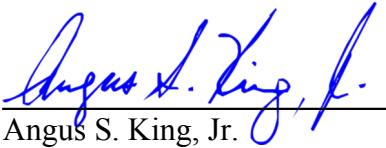
Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



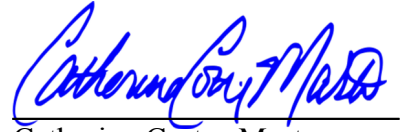
Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator



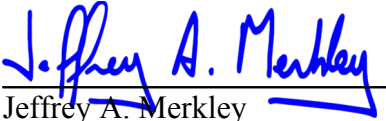
Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator



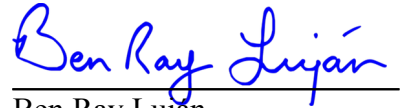
Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator



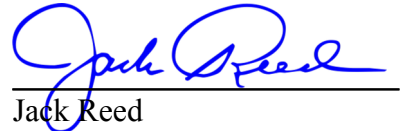
Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator




Ben Ray Lujan  
United States Senator



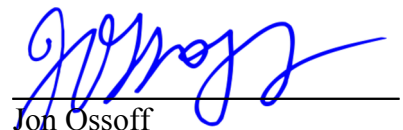
Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



Jack Reed  
United States Senator



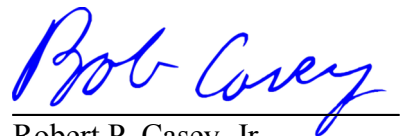
Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



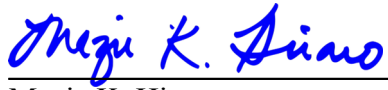
Jon Ossoff  
United States Senator



Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator



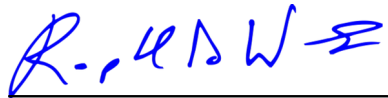
Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



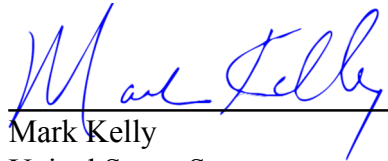
Jon Tester  
United States Senator



Raphael G. Warnock  
United States Senator



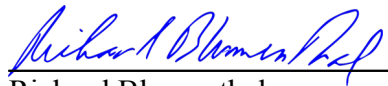
Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



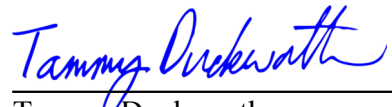
Mark Kelly  
United States Senator



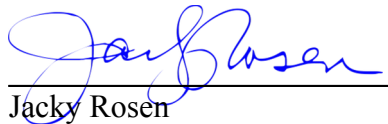
Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



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Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



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Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



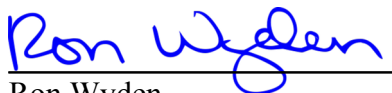
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Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



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Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator



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Ron Wyden  
United States Senator