



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

September 20, 2023

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jefferies
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Speaker McCarthy, Minority Leaders McConnell, and Jefferies:

As you negotiate the final appropriations bill for fiscal year (FY) 2024, we respectfully request that you provide robust funding increases for housing and homelessness assistance programs throughout the federal government to mitigate the effects of the budgetary restraints imposed by the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023. Because the cost of housing rises every year, it is crucial that housing and homelessness assistance programs receive increased funding to just maintain the number of people served by these vital programs. Congress must provide the funding necessary to address our country's housing and homelessness crisis, rather than making these challenges worse.

Since 2017,¹ the number of people experiencing homelessness has increased, with more than 580,000 individuals experiencing homelessness on a given night.² Furthermore, with local COVID-19 pandemic protections ending and eviction filings rising above pre-pandemic levels,³ some of the most vulnerable households in our communities, including extremely low-income families, risk losing their homes. Due to these circumstances, significant congressional investments in federal services such as universal housing vouchers, permanent emergency rental assistance, and supportive wraparound services are necessary to secure and sustain housing for individuals experiencing homelessness and prevent families from losing their homes.

Unfortunately, the Fiscal Responsibility Act limits FY 2024 appropriations to the previous fiscal year's funding levels at a time when federal investments in homelessness assistance programs

¹ [State of Homelessness: 2023 Edition - endhomelessness.org](https://endhomelessness.org/state-of-homelessness-2023-edition)

² [2022 AHAR: Part 1 - PIT Estimates of Homelessness in the U.S. | HUD USER](#)

³ [Eviction filings soar above pre-pandemic levels in some cities | The Hill](#)

are more critical than ever to help families and individuals weather the current economic situation and strained budgets. Due to high inflation, interest rates, and rent, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) alone will require an increase of \$13 billion to \$16 billion to maintain current levels of assistance in FY 2024.⁴ This also occurs when the Federal Housing Agency's receipts, which help offset HUD's budget, are expected to be about \$6 billion lower than FY2023 levels. Considering these conditions, the budgetary caps, in effect, reduce funding for housing and homelessness programs throughout the agency.

If funding is cut, countless individuals and families across our country will face housing insecurity and our homelessness crisis will inevitably deepen. For instance, members of the far-right House Freedom Caucus are pushing to cut FY2024 spending to FY2022 levels which, if enacted, would put nearly 1 million households at risk of losing HUD rental assistance.⁵ If the United States Department of Agriculture's spending in FY24 is capped at FY22 funding levels, up to 63,000 households would lose rental assistance in rural communities.⁶ For people experiencing homelessness, 120,000 fewer individuals would have access to critical services—ranging from housing assistance to supportive services.⁷ The proposed House Transportation, Housing and Urban Development legislation cuts by more than half the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, which is a critical resource for our communities to develop housing accessible for people who are low-income.⁸ These repercussions will disproportionately affect marginalized communities that heavily rely on government assistance or are more likely to be homeless, including communities of color, the LGBTQI+ community, older adults, foster youth, and veterans.

To address these impacts and prevent our homelessness crisis from worsening, Congress must provide robust funding increases to federal affordable housing and homelessness assistance programs. Thank you for your leadership in crafting this crucial appropriations bill and for considering this request.

Sincerely,

⁴ [Final Debt Ceiling Agreement Could Harm Renters and People Experiencing Homelessness! Your Advocacy Is Needed! | National Low Income Housing Coalition \(nlihc.org\)](#)

⁵ [Final Debt Ceiling Agreement Could Harm Renters and People Experiencing Homelessness! Your Advocacy Is Needed! | National Low Income Housing Coalition \(nlihc.org\)](#)

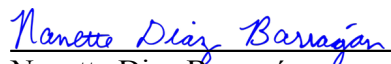
⁶ [House Republican Proposals Hurt Rural Communities | USDA](#)

⁷ [Final Debt Ceiling Agreement Could Harm Renters and People Experiencing Homelessness! Your Advocacy Is Needed! | National Low Income Housing Coalition \(nlihc.org\)](#)

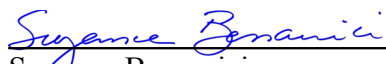
⁸ Transportation, House and Urban Development and Related Agencies Subcommittee Legislative Activity



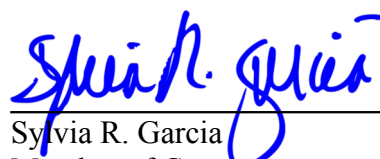
Cori Bush
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



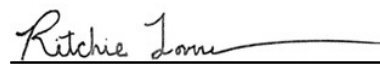
Suzanne Bonamici
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Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Ritchie Torres
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Earl Blumenauer
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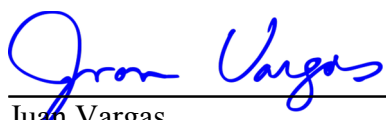
André Carson
Member of Congress



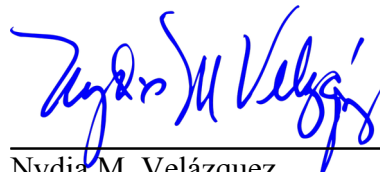
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Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
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Nydia M. Velázquez
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Jonathan L. Jackson
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Rashida Tlaib
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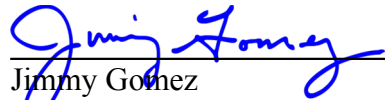
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Kevin Mullin
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Troy Carter
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Jimmy Gomez
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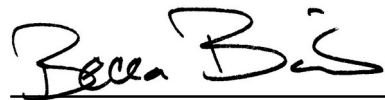
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Becca Balint
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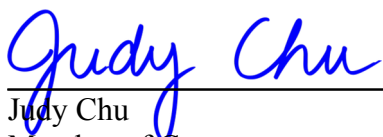
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Chellie Pingree
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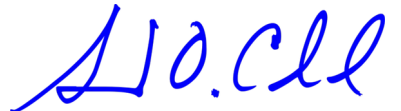
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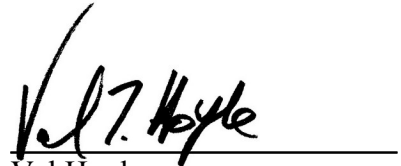
Doris Matsui
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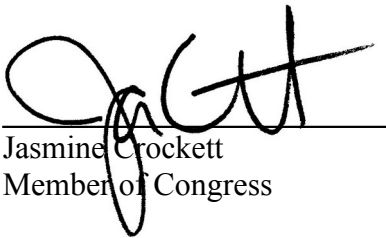
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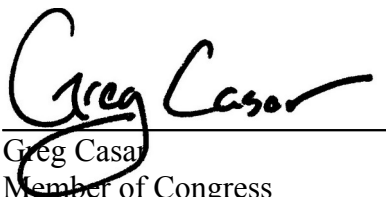
Val Hoyle
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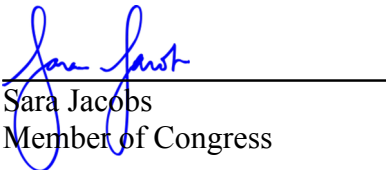
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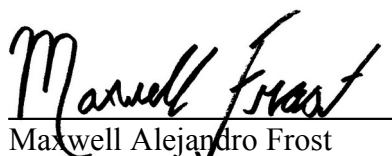
Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
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