

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 7, 2017

The Honorable Susan Collins, Chairwoman  
The Honorable Jack Reed, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Collins and Ranking Member Reed,

We write to you to express our strong support for the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME). We are concerned that President Trump's Fiscal Year 2018 budget proposal eliminates funding for a number of key affordable housing programs, including HOME. During these challenging budgetary times, it is important to maintain our commitment to programs like HOME that contribute to the economic health and security of our communities. We thank you for your past support of this vital affordable housing program and urge the Subcommittee to provide \$1.2 billion for the HOME Investment Partnerships Program for Fiscal Year 2018.

The HOME program serves as the only federal block grant program for state and local governments designed exclusively to produce affordable housing for low-income families. Since 1992, the HOME program has created more than one million affordable homes and helped provide direct rental assistance to over 324,000 low-income families. The program provides a flexible resource to meet communities' highest priority affordable housing needs. HOME resources are used to provide much needed funds to local communities for tenant-based rental assistance, rehabilitation of affordable rental and ownership housing, and construction of affordable housing. Additionally, the HOME program helps to provide housing vouchers to low-income families and those on the brink of homelessness. The program also has an exceptionally broad reach, serving urban, suburban, and rural communities and providing vital resources for seniors, persons with disabilities, the homeless, and veterans.

In addition to this extensive impact, the HOME program is also cost effective. According to HUD data, each HOME dollar leverages more than four dollars in other public and private resources. The HOME funds are frequently used to provide the critical gap financing that makes rental housing funded with other federal, state, or local housing projects feasible. Funding for the HOME program has successfully leveraged more than \$130 billion of additional public and private funds for affordable housing.

The need for funding for affordable housing has never been greater, but despite this gap, funding for HOME has fallen dramatically. Over the last several years, HOME funding has been cut nearly in half, from \$1.8 billion in 2010 to \$950 million in the most recent continuing resolution. These reductions have real and serious consequences for families in need. As communities have struggled to continue their affordable housing programs, they have been forced to discontinue critical projects for low- and moderate-income individuals.

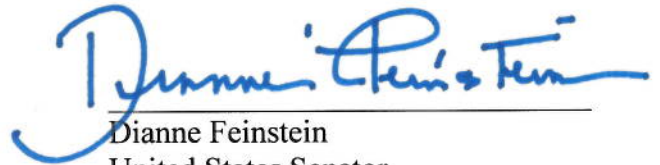
For many state and local governments, HOME is the only reliable funding for affordable and special needs housing development available. As communities continue to face devastating affordable housing shortages and the need for affordable housing continues to grow, HOME funds are in high demand.

Given the important need for affordable housing and the great benefits that HOME provides, we urge you to provide critical support for HOME in the Fiscal Year 2018 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. We thank you for your consideration of our request, and we look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



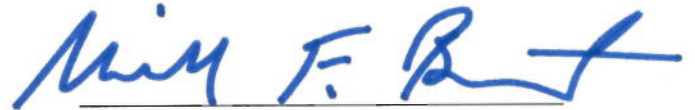
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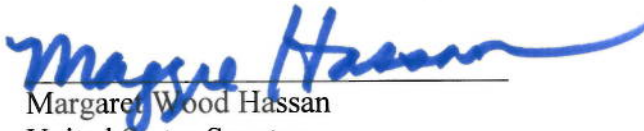
Al Franken  
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand  
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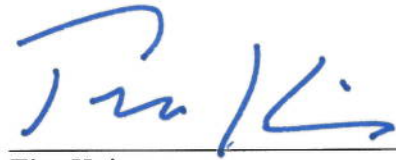
Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator



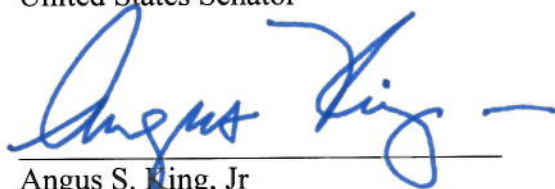
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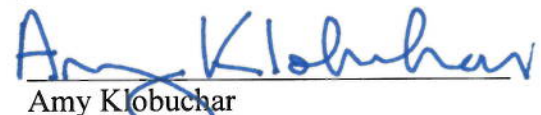
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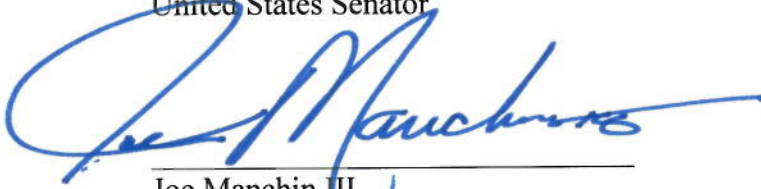
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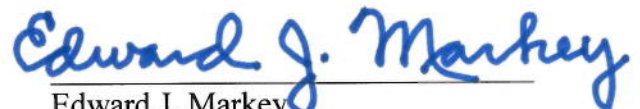
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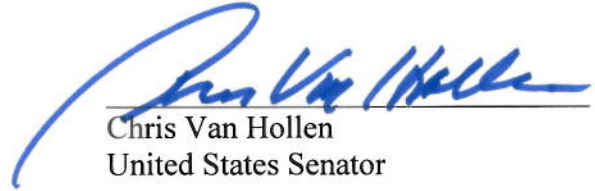
Debbie Stabenow  
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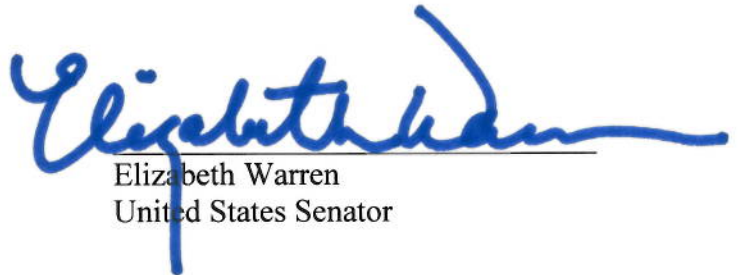
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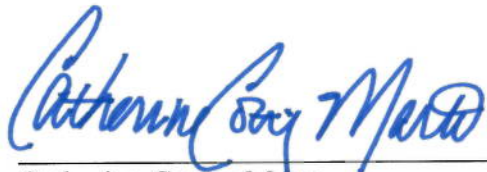
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