

Date

The Honorable _____
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable _____
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Funding Threats to HOME

Representative/Senator _____:

As the **chief elected official/director of _____**, I am writing this letter on behalf of our community to express our support for the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) program and to voice our opposition to any threatened cuts or elimination of this program in FY 2019. Any reduction in HOME funding would severely slow down or eliminate thousands of local and state projects and programs that are vital to the country's affordable housing stock and economic health.

For communities across the nation, the HOME program is vital to increasing home ownership and expanding the availability of affordable rental housing. Since 1990, over one million units of housing have been produced with HOME funds. HUD indicates that each dollar of HOME funding leverages an additional \$4 in other public and private funding. Every \$1 billion in HOME funding creates or preserves more than 17,000 jobs. Despite the program's performance, HOME funding has been cut in half since 2010.

According to HUD, an estimated 12 million renter and homeowner households now pay more than 50 percent of their annual incomes for housing. A family with one full-time worker earning minimum wage cannot afford the local fair-market rent for a two-bedroom apartment anywhere in the United States. It is imperative that the HOME program is strengthened and expanded to help American families access affordable housing.

The Trump Administration's budget has proposed the elimination of the entire HOME program, however, at a time when our nation is enduring an affordable housing crisis. It is more important now than ever to maintain HOME funding to give communities the ability to address their infrastructure, housing and economic development needs at the local level. We ask you to oppose any legislation that would eliminate or reduce funding for HOME in FY 2019. We would also like to extend an invitation to you and your staff to tour our HOME-funded projects to see the benefits of the program firsthand.

We thank you, in advance, for your support of HOME. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,