



October 16, 2022

The Hon. _____
U.S. House of Representatives
The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Senator _____
United States Senate
The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Senator _____
United States Senate
The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Fund Affordable Housing NOW!

Dear Members of Congress,

As your constituent, I strongly urge you to include funding to expand access to affordable housing and prevent evictions in the year-end spending bill.

According to recently released survey data by the U.S. Census Bureau, 43% of households earning \$50,000 or less per year were spending over half of their income on rent. It's a common rule of thumb that your housing cost should be no more than 30% of your gross income. But with rising housing costs and stagnant wages, that's becoming more and more unachievable.

Right now, a full-time worker needs to earn \$25.82 per hour to afford a modest, two-bedroom rental home and \$21.25 per hour to afford a modest, one-bedroom rental home.

Eviction rates are back to pre-pandemic levels, with Black people and Latino people disproportionately facing the highest rates. 13% of Black renters have faced the threat of eviction, which is nearly double the rate of white renters.

This gross inequity cannot continue. I urge you to do the following:

1. Expand housing vouchers to at least an additional 200,000 households.
2. Vote in favor of significant funding to preserve and operate public housing (\$5.125 billion for the Public Housing Capital Fund, and \$5.06 billion for the Public Housing Operating Fund).
3. Vote for \$3.6 billion for HUD's Homeless Assistance Grants program to address the needs of people experiencing homelessness.
4. Vote for \$100 million for legal assistance to prevent evictions.
5. Vote for \$300 million for the competitive tribal housing program, targeted to tribes with the greatest needs.

So many people are hurting due to inflation and multiple public health crises. It's imperative that you pass this legislation to help communities thrive.

Sincerely,

(Print Name) _____

Address _____
