

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Transportation,  
Housing, and Urban Development, and  
Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Cindy Hyde Smith  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and  
Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Quigley  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Transportation,  
Housing, and Urban Development, and Related  
Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairs and Ranking Members:

The undersigned 39 national organizations urge you to support robust funding to meet the affordable housing needs of older adults.

*Full and Timely Renewal Funding for Currently Assisted Households*

We urge Congress not to stray from its commitment for full and timely renewal funding for the 1.9 million older adult households currently assisted by HUD's Project-Based Rental Assistance, Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly, Public Housing, and Housing Choice Vouchers programs. Meeting funding needs for the uninterrupted provision of quality affordable housing for currently assisted residents is of utmost importance.

### *Funding to Expand the Supply of Affordable Senior Housing*

We urge Congress to expand the supply of housing affordable to older adults with very low incomes by providing \$600 million for new capital grants and operating subsidies for approximately 5,400 new Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly homes. Residents of HUD's Section 202 program have average annual household incomes of \$15,208 and the program's nonprofit providers often maintain waiting lists of two to five years, or more, to live in Section 202 communities. In addition to serving a predominantly extremely low income population (77% of Section 202 households are ELI), the Section 202 program has a strong emphasis on connecting residents, through Service Coordinators, to the services they need to age in community. In support of this proven model, we urge Congress to also provide \$100 million for 400 new three-year Service Coordinator grants in HUD-assisted housing for older adults.

### *Housing Needs and Homelessness Among Older Adults*

In 1991, Congress directed HUD to provide a biannual report on "worst case housing needs," to ensure Congress understood and could adequately respond to the nation's most pressing housing needs. In HUD's most recent Worst Case Housing Needs: 2021 Report to Congress, data show an alarming 68% increase of "worst case housing needs" among older adult households between 2009 and 2019, including a 16% increase between 2017 and 2019.

Older adults are one of the fastest-growing groups of people experiencing homelessness and single adults over 50 now make up half of the homeless population, according to March 2023, testimony from U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness executive director Jeff Olivet.

We urge with you to protect and increase funding for housing programs for older adults.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Retired Americans

American Association of Service Coordinators

B'nai B'rith International

Center for Disability Rights

Coalition on Human Needs

Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities (CCD) Housing Task Force

Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH)

Enterprise Community Partners

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Housing Assistance Council

Jewish Federations of North America

Justice in Aging

LeadingAge

Local Initiatives Support Corporation

Lutheran Services in America

National Affordable Housing Management Association

National Alliance to End Homelessness

National Association for County Community and Economic Development

National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders (NALCAB)

National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO)

National Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies

National Association of Social Workers (NASW)

National CAPACD- National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development

National Caucus and Center on Black Aging

National Center for Housing & Child Welfare

National Coalition for Homeless Veterans

National Community Development Association

National Council on Aging

National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)

National Housing Trust

National Leased Housing Association

NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice

Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies

Public Housing Authorities Directors Association

SAGE

Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future (SAHF)

The Council of Large Public Housing Authorities

The Jewish Federations of North America

USAging