

October 9, 2015

**Re: Vote NO on Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act (S. 2146)
– Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Funding**

Dear Senator:

We, the undersigned, representing a broad spectrum of housing and community development organizations, as well as municipalities, urge you to oppose the Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act (S. 2146), introduced by Senator Vitter, when the bill is considered on the Senate floor. This misguided proposal would punish communities that have immigrant “sanctuary” laws and policies in place by stripping them of federal funding provided through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

Since being established in 1974, the CDBG program has strengthened thousands of communities across America, and has assisted hundreds of millions of people with low and moderate incomes. CDBG is a valued program, contributing to local economies, serving households in need, maintaining and stabilizing neighborhoods, and providing the flexibility to develop partnerships and projects that are vital to the well-being of communities nationwide.

While the purported goal of S. 2146 is to make America’s communities more secure, the bill does anything but. Instead, S. 2146 will undermine local efforts to improve the safety and quality of life of residents by depriving communities of CDGB funding needed to undertake initiatives to stabilize neighborhoods and provide decent affordable housing for low income households. Our government should not play politics with communities’ ability to serve their residents by holding essential CDBG funding hostage.

For these reasons, we ask that you reject S. 2146.

Sincerely,

National Groups

Coalition on Human Needs
Collaborative Solutions, Inc.
National Alliance to End Homelessness
National Community Development Association
National Community Land Trust Network
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Leased Housing Association
National Low Income Housing Coalition
National Rural Housing Coalition
Planning/Communications
The Salvation Army

Municipalities, and State and Local Groups

City of Knoxville
City of La Crosse
City of Northampton Massachusetts Housing Partnership
City of Pittsburgh
Community Housing Land Trust of Rhode Island
Community of Vermont Elders
COHHIO
County of Hidalgo
Delaware Housing Coalition
East Providence Community Development Division
Empower Missouri
Fargo-Moorhead Coalition for Homeless Persons
Georgia Advancing Communities Together, Inc.
Housing Action Illinois
Housing Community Development Network of NJ
Housing Network of Rhode Island
Louisiana Housing Alliance
Low Income Housing Coalition of Alabama
Minnesota Housing Partnership
Minot Area Homeless Coalition
Missouri Valley Coalition for Homeless People
Multi-Service Center
Mutual Housing California
NeighborWorks Blackstone River Valley
North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People Radical Mission.Inc
Refugee Women's Alliance
Smith Hill Community Development Corporation
Sunset Hill Neighborhood association
Town of Riverhead NY Anti-Bias Task Force
Urban Grace Ministries and Safe House
Utah Housing Coalition
Ventures (formerly Washington CASH)
Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition
Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development
YWCA Seattle|King|Snohomish
Westgate Housing Inc.
Wisconsin Partnership for Housing Development