



NATIONAL LOW INCOME HOUSING COALITION

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Founded in 1974 by
Cushing N. Dolbeare

February 2, 2016

United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative,

The National Low Income Housing Coalition urges you to support H.R. 3700, the Housing Opportunities Through Modernization Act. The bill would make good-government improvements to the nation's public and assisted housing programs. HUD's rental assistance programs allow extremely low income families and individuals, including persons with disabilities and the elderly, afford safe and decent homes.

Critically, H.R. 3700 would streamline the administration of public and assisted housing, incentivize residents to increase their earned income, help voucher holders move more quickly into private apartments, improve the project-basing of vouchers, and impose limits on housing assistance for high-income families.

During floor consideration of H.R. 3700, NLIHC urges you to support the following amendments as well as others beneficial to low income people:

- Representative Maxine Waters' amendment to retain current law related to dependent and child care income deductions;
- Representatives David Price and Robert Aderholt's amendment to update the formula for HUD's Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program; and,
- Representative Peter Welch's amendment to allow housing choice vouchers to cover costs beyond the rental of the land underneath a manufactured home.

Additionally, NLIHC urges you to oppose Representative Steven Palazzo's amendment to permanently exempt all public housing agencies in Mississippi, Iowa, Alaska, as well as the Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles, from the requirement of having a resident on their boards of commissioners. Input from public housing residents and housing choice voucher holders about the administration of housing assistance is critical to the success of these programs.

The bill, the product of years of consultation and compromise, is not perfect but NLIHC believes it will improve programs, expand housing choice, and more effectively use insufficient federal funds.

Sincerely,

Sheila Crowley
President and CEO