

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 9, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
Washington, D.C., 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to urge you to include critically needed homeless assistance funding as part of any supplemental spending proposal you send to Congress.

Surging home prices and rents have fueled a growing homelessness crisis throughout our country. The extent of this challenge is not limited to a few states or major cities. Indeed, last year's annual Point-in-Time count delivered grim data across a wide range of states. Homeless rates increased from pre-pandemic levels by 10% or more in 15 states, while chronic homelessness increased 15.6% nationwide. More Americans lacked a stable, fixed address in 2022 than at any point since 2013. Without the strong leadership, commitment, and investments championed by you and your Administration, including under the American Rescue Plan Act, the situation would undoubtedly be much worse.

But now, most pandemic-era homeless prevention programs have expired or will soon exhaust their funding. State, municipal, and non-profit homeless assistance resources are already stretched thin, and more Americans could immediately fall into homelessness as these support mechanisms move offline. We need to prevent that from happening, and we need to help the hundreds of thousands of Americans currently experiencing homelessness, particularly those living on the street or in other places not meant for human habitation. We also need to make immediate investments to help build more affordable housing units.

To that end, we urge you to include a significant emergency investment in the following programs as part of any supplemental appropriations request:

- \$5 billion in new Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV). Doubling EHV funding could provide housing for approximately 70,000 more households experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, homelessness.
- \$580 million for the Emergency Solutions Grant program (ESG). ESG is the only federal program that provides comprehensive homeless assistance funding for outreach, recruiting and retaining front-line staff, rental assistance, rapid rehousing, and emergency shelter. Additional funding this year would particularly help rural areas and major cities, which both have disproportionately high rates of unsheltered homelessness.
- \$1 billion for the Housing Trust Fund (HTF). Funding for HTF at this level could build and rehab around 9,000 affordable housing units for Americans currently experiencing homelessness or most at-risk of experiencing homelessness.

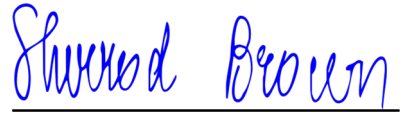
Collectively, these funds would help house tens of thousands of households and enable states and localities to expand homeless outreach and shelter services. They would directly support individuals and families experiencing homelessness, ease the current burden on local communities, and help jumpstart housing construction for the lowest-income households.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue and your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



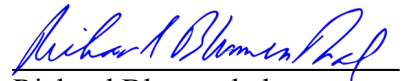
Jack Reed
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



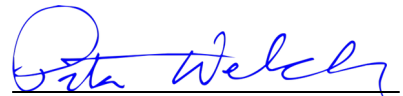
Tina Smith
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



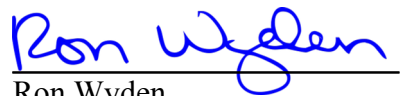
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



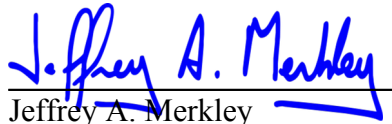
Peter Welch
United States Senator




Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator




Ron Wyden
United States Senator

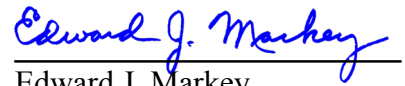

Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator


Bernard Sanders
United States Senator


Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator


Raphael Warnock
United States Senator


Mark Kelly
United States Senator


Edward J. Markey
United States Senator