



NATIONAL LOW INCOME HOUSING COALITION

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Founded in 1974 by
Cushing N. Dolbear

January 27, 2021

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
The Honorable Pat Toomey
Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs
United States Senate
Washington DC

To Chairman Sherrod Brown, Ranking Member Pat Toomey, and the Esteemed Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the National Low Income Housing Coalition, I write in support of Representative Marcia Fudge's nomination as Secretary of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and urge her swift confirmation.

The National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) is solely dedicated to achieving socially just public policy that ensures people with the lowest incomes in the United States have affordable, accessible, and decent homes. NLIHC members include state and local affordable housing coalitions, residents of public and assisted housing, nonprofit housing providers, homeless service providers, fair housing organizations, researchers, faith-based organizations, public housing agencies, private developers and property owners, local and state government agencies, and concerned citizens. While our members include the spectrum of housing interests, we do not represent any segment of the housing industry. Rather, we work on behalf of and with low-income people who receive federal housing assistance and those in need of it, especially extremely low-income people and people experiencing homelessness.

Secretary-designate Fudge will be charged with leading HUD during a time of extraordinary challenges and hardship for our nation's lowest-income renters and people experiencing homelessness. Millions of households are struggling to keep roofs over their heads, homelessness is rising in some communities, and our nation continues to grapple with the economic and public health fallout from the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Historic and ongoing systemic racism results in Black, Latino and other people of color bearing the brunt of these challenges. The consequences of inaction are deadly and costly – for children, families, communities, and our country's ability to recover from the pandemic.

With these challenges come opportunities for meaningful change. Secretary-designate Fudge will work with Congress to repair and expand the shredded housing safety net that has put so many renters and people without homes at grave risk during the pandemic, and to advance and achieve President Biden's vision of housing and racial justice by ensuring housing assistance for all in need. By working towards such goals, we can ensure no one in this country will have to endure housing insecurity or homelessness.

Secretary-designate Fudge is more than capable of meeting the challenge. During the course of her more than 30 years in public service, she has been a champion for the lowest-income people, working to protect and expand access to food and nutrition

assistance, healthcare, and the vital safety net programs that keep millions of the lowest-income and most marginalized people from falling into poverty. Her work is distinguished by its focus on racial equity, striving to address the systemic racism in policies and practices that have funneled resources away from communities of color and made it exceedingly more difficult for these communities to thrive.

Secretary-designate Fudge has a demonstrated record as a leader who values expertise and the importance of building collaborative partnerships, a record she clearly intends to continue through her and President Biden's assembling of an outstanding team of seasoned experts to navigate the critical work ahead. Her decision to surround herself with experts and champions for affordable housing will, together with her leadership, vision, and commitment to the lowest-income and most marginalized people, propel HUD to achieve its critical mission and revitalize the department's depleted and demoralized workforce.

I urge Secretary-designate Fudge's swift confirmation so she may begin the difficult and urgent work of rebuilding a HUD that is, once again, an agency whose leadership, programs and rhetoric advances its essential mission of creating strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane Yentel". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Diane Yentel
President and CEO