

April XX, 2019

The Honorable Susan Collins, Chairwoman
The Honorable Jack Reed, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Collins and Ranking Member Reed,

We write to you to express our strong support for the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME). We are concerned that President Trump's Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 budget proposal eliminates funding for a number of key affordable housing programs, including HOME. During these challenging budgetary times, it is important to maintain our commitment to programs like HOME that contribute to the economic health and security of our communities. We thank you for your past support of this vital affordable housing program and we appreciate the Subcommittee's rejection of the President's proposed elimination of HOME in FY 2019. We urge the Subcommittee to provide \$1.5 billion for the HOME Investment Partnerships Program for FY 2020.

The HOME program serves as the only federal block grant program for state and local governments designed exclusively to produce affordable housing for low-income families. Since 1992, the HOME program has created more than 1.3 million affordable homes and helped provide direct rental assistance to over 356,000 low-income families. The program provides a flexible resource to meet communities' highest priority affordable housing needs like tenant-based rental assistance, rehabilitation of affordable rental and ownership housing, and construction of affordable housing. The program also has an exceptionally broad reach, serving urban, suburban, and rural communities and providing vital resources for seniors, persons with disabilities, the homeless, and veterans.

In addition to this extensive impact, the HOME program is also cost effective. According to HUD data, each HOME dollar leverages more than \$4.38 in other public and private resources. The HOME funds frequently provide critical gap financing for rental housing projects funded by other federal, state, or local entities. Funding for the HOME program has successfully leveraged more than \$151 billion of additional public and private funds for affordable housing.

The need for affordable housing has never been greater, and communities across the country are facing increased demands for HOME funding to provide additional gap financing in deals impacted by lower corporate tax rates and the redirection of their HOME funds to respond and rebuild after natural disasters. Despite this need, the HOME program continues to be underfunded. In FY 2019, HOME was funded at \$1.25 billion; this level is nearly 32 percent below the funding level provided in FY 2010. The reductions in funding have real and serious

consequences for families in need. As communities have struggled to continue their affordable housing programs, they have been forced to end critical projects for low- and moderate-income individuals.

Given the important need for affordable housing and the great benefits that HOME provides, we urge you to provide critical support for HOME in the FY 2020 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. We thank you for your consideration of our request, and we look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator