



# Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

April 4, 2017

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Transportation,  
Housing, and Related Agencies  
H-307 Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Price  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Transportation,  
Housing, and Related Agencies  
1016 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Diaz-Balart and Ranking Member Price:

As you develop the Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18) Transportation, Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill, we urge you to strongly support the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)'s Homeless Assistance Grants programs and to extend the sunset date of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) from 2017 to 2020.

According to the most recent Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress, released November 2016, there are an estimated 549,928 people experiencing homelessness on any given night in America. This includes 194,716 people in families (including children), 35,686 unaccompanied homeless youth, and 77,486 chronically homeless individuals.

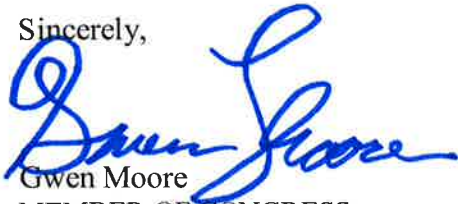
Without a stable home, children and youth face challenges in school, unaccompanied youth face an increased risk of being trafficked, families struggle to maintain employment, and those fighting health, mental health, and addiction issues lack the support to adequately address their problems. Homelessness leads many people to cycle through costly emergency systems and shortens life expectancy.

Successful homeless assistance systems move people into permanent housing in the fastest and most cost-effective ways possible, using a Housing First approach; guided by the concept that stable housing is a necessary first step to addressing the issues contributing to economic hardship. Thanks to effective, rapid re-housing and permanent supportive housing programs, family homelessness has decreased, and homelessness among veterans and chronically homeless individuals has fallen dramatically in recent years. Rapid re-housing has proven to be an effective intervention to get youth off the streets and on the road to self-sufficiency. This progress demonstrates that we can get the job done when we invest federal resources and deeply leverage them with local leadership and

Given the homeless assistance field's dedicated work and proven ability to effectively use resources to end homelessness, continuing bipartisan efforts to fight against homelessness is critically important. Therefore, please join me to request that the House Appropriations Committee fund HUD's Homeless Assistance Grants programs in the FY18 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill at \$2.6 billion and extend the sunset date of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) from 2017 to 2020. This will lead us closer to ensuring that all families, unaccompanied youth, and individuals who are facing homelessness in the United States will soon have a place to call home.

Thank you for considering this important request and for your continuing leadership in helping to prevent and end homelessness in the United States.

Sincerely,



Gwen Moore  
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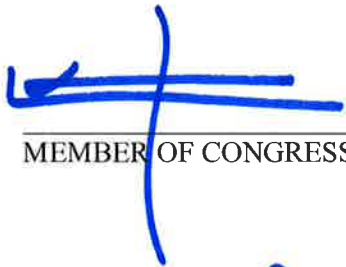
  
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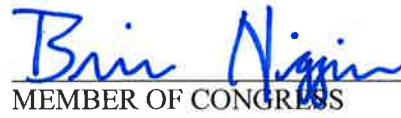
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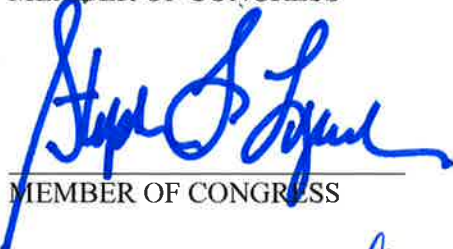
  
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