

October 25, 2005

Jerry Lewis, Chair
House Appropriations Committee
H-218 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

David R. Obey, Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Joseph Knollenberg, Chair
Subcommittee on Transportation,
and Housing and Urban Development,
the Judiciary and District of Columbia
House Appropriations Committee
2358 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

John W. Olver, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury
Treasury, Housing and Urban Development,
the Judiciary and District of Columbia
House Appropriations Committee
2358 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Lewis, Mr. Obey, Mr. Knollenberg and Mr. Olver:

We, the undersigned organizations, are writing to urge you to support the Senate Appropriations Committee recommendation of \$1.415 billion for McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants during conference negotiations for the Transportation, Treasury and Housing and Urban Development appropriations legislation. This would represent a \$175 million increase over FY 2005 funding.

We understand that the committee has many hard funding choices this year and we appreciate the \$100 million increase in the House version of the Transportation, Treasury and Housing and Urban Development appropriations legislation. However, the Senate bill matches the Administration's FY 2006 budget request for funding for HUD's homelessness programs. (Not included in either the House or Senate legislation is the Administration's budget request of an additional \$25 million that would be transferred to the Department of Labor for prisoner reentry programs, which are important for preventing further homelessness.)

The Senate request for HUD McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants will allow communities to continue helping homeless families and individuals stabilize their lives, progress toward self-sufficiency and reduce the strain on our nation's public service systems.

Sincerely,

CFED
Children's Defense Fund
Coalition on Human Needs
Corporation for Supportive Housing
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National AIDS Housing Coalition
National Alliance to End Homelessness
National Alliance for the Mentally Ill

National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors

National Center on Family Homelessness

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence

National Coalition for the Homeless

National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty

National Low Income Housing Coalition

National Mental Health Association

National Network to End Domestic Violence

National Network for Youth

NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Washington Office

RI HUD Tenant Project

RESULTS

The Salvation Army – National Headquarters

Technical Assistance Collaborative

Travelers Aid International

United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries

The United Methodist Church – General Board of Church and Society

United Way of America.