

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 6, 2017

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing and Urban Development
184 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing and Urban Development
125 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Collins and Ranking Member Reed:

As you begin consideration of the Fiscal Year 2018 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD), and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we strongly encourage the subcommittee to continue the Federal government's commitment to community development programs at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and support \$3.3 billion in formula funds for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

The CDBG program is one of the Federal government's most effective means to revitalize low- and moderate-income communities across the country. CDBG funding supports homeownership, housing rehabilitation, public improvements and economic development projects while encouraging additional local investment. CDBG makes its way into local economies through an extensive network of local organizations and remains a needed resource for families and communities.

Over 1,200 state and local governments receive annual CDBG funding. Every State, Territory, and Congressional District receives or has access to CDBG funds. The importance of this funding to meet the unique needs of local communities is widely recognized and we find it troubling that the President's budget proposes to eliminate the program altogether. Doing so would shift an insurmountable cost to local communities.

Over the past 40 years, the CDBG program has invested more than \$149 billion in communities nationwide. According to data reported to HUD by grantees, from FY 2005-2016, CDBG has helped more than 1.3 million households rehabilitate their homes, provided down payment and closing cost assistance to qualified homebuyers, and assisted homeowners with lead-based paint abatement. In addition, since 2005, the program has assisted in the creation and retention of more than 387,109 economic development-related jobs in low-income and moderate-income communities. CDBG has provided public services benefitting over 133 million people.

CDBG Helps Seniors Live Independently. CDBG funds are used to rehabilitate the homes of low- and moderate-income elderly persons to allow them to age in place, thereby avoiding costly assisted living and nursing home care. CDBG provides resources to Meals on Wheels and other local food programs to ensure our low-income seniors receive daily nourishment and contact. Further, CDBG funds are used to build senior centers to allow seniors to receive health and recreational services to stay engaged and healthy.

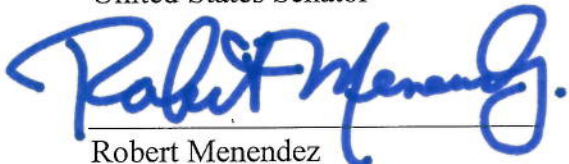
Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator


Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

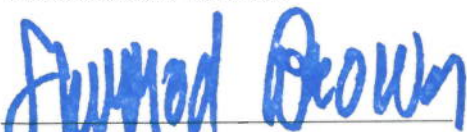

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator


Bernard Sanders
United States Senator


Robert Menendez
United States Senator


Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator


Bill Nelson
United States Senator


Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator


Jon Tester
United States Senator

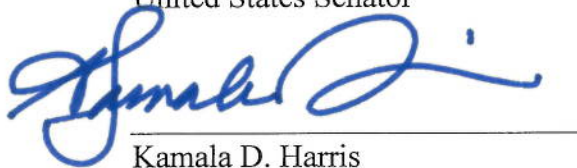

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator


Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator


Joe Donnelly
United States Senator

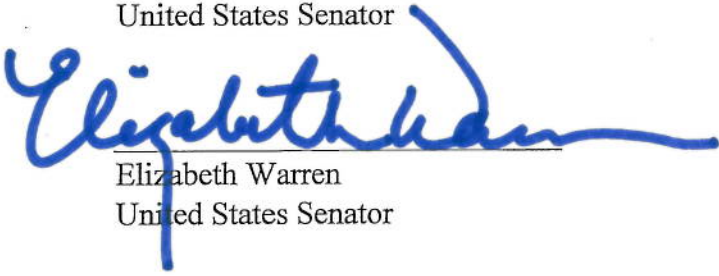

Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator

Ron Wyden
United States Senator


Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator




Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator




Mazi K. Hirono
United States Senator



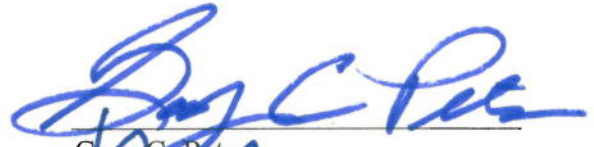
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



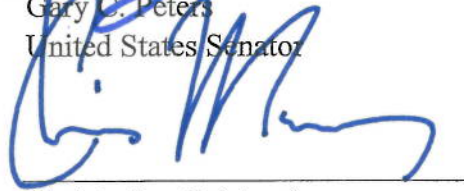
Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



Tom Udall
United States Senator

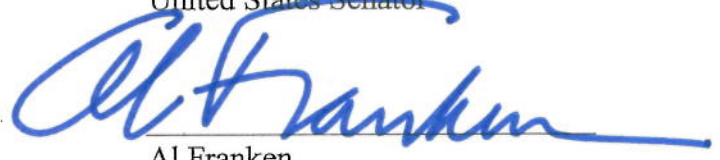


Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

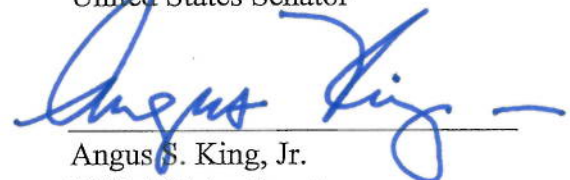


Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator

Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Al Franken
United States Senator

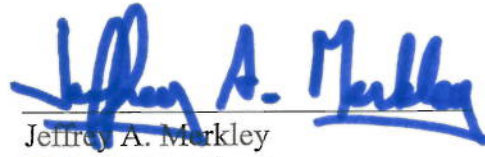


Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator




Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Joe Manchin III
United States Senator