

May 4, 2007

Dear Member of the Financial Services Committee,

We are writing to urge your support for H.R. 1851, the Section 8 Voucher Reform Act of 2007 (SEVRA), which is expected to be considered this month by the Financial Services Committee. We represent a diverse array of constituencies — ranging from housing providers to tenants to apartment owners to membership organizations to religious leaders — who all agree that this is a very strong piece of legislation.

Simply put, SEVRA is a good government bill. It stabilizes the voucher program with a permanent funding policy, while simplifying the rules about how to calculate tenant rents and streamlining the housing inspection process. As a result, the voucher program will run more efficiently, tenants will be rewarded when they increase their work effort, and there will be less unnecessary paperwork for all parties involved — housing authorities, tenants, and property owners.

The voucher program is our nation's leading source of housing assistance for low-income people. It serves nearly two million families with children, elderly people, and people with disabilities. Making sure that it operates as effectively as possible is in their interest as well as in our national interest.

We hope you will support SEVRA when it comes before the committee for a vote.

Sincerely,

AARP
American Association of Homes and Services
for the Aging (AAHSA)
The Arc of the United States
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP)
Coalition on Human Needs (CHN)
Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities
Housing Task Force
Easter Seals
Enterprise Community Partners
Housing Assistance Council (HAC)
Institute of Real Estate Management
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)
Lutheran Services in America
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the
Good Shepherd
National Affordable Housing Management
Association (NAHMA)
National AIDS Housing Coalition
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
National Alliance to End Homelessness
National Apartment Association
National Association of Home Builders

National Association of Housing Co-ops
National Association of Realtors
National Association of State Mental Health
Program Directors
National Council of State Housing Agencies
(NCSHA)
National Housing Conference
National Housing Trust
National Law Center on Homelessness &
Poverty
National Leased Housing Association
National Low Income Housing Coalition
National Multi Housing Council
National People's Action (NPA)
National Training and Information Center
(NTIC)
NETWORK, a National Catholic Social Justice
Lobby
Presbyterian Church (USA) Washington Office
Public Housing Authorities Directors
Association (PHADA)
Public Justice Center
Travelers Aid International
United Cerebral Palsy