

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 28, 2011

Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
S 221, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable John Boehner, Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Reid and McConnell, Speaker Boehner and Minority Leader Pelosi:

As members of the Massachusetts delegation, we write to urge your intervention to ensure adequate funding for vital rental housing programs administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that are crucial for our most vulnerable citizens, more than half of whom are elderly, disabled, or single parent families with children.

As you know, the House approved a Continuing Resolution (H.R. 1), which would cut more than \$5.4 billion from HUD programs compared to the Fiscal Year 2010 enacted level of \$44 billion. Because these cuts would be concentrated over seven months, this amounts to a 23% cut below current funding levels. We are particularly concerned about the proposed 43% cut of \$1.072 billion to the Public Housing Capital fund, as well as related cuts and rescissions, that amount to a \$1.6 billion cut overall for Public Housing. Such drastic cuts will cost jobs and accelerate the erosion of scarce low cost rental housing. Indeed, Congress only restored minimal funding to Public Housing programs in 2009 following a decade of underfunding, which has left a critical repair backlog of at least \$20 billion. Failure to fund these repairs will inevitably cost the public far more as people are rendered homeless and buildings deteriorate and become uninhabitable. In Massachusetts alone, the cut in public housing capital funding will take away \$30.3 million and halt renovations at several developments, such as Old Colony in South Boston.

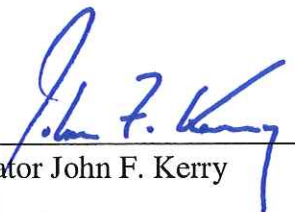
Likewise, the proposed 8% cut of \$1.4 billion below the President's request for Section 8 Vouchers will likely lead to "frozen" waiting lists at housing authorities nationwide. It also would eliminate vouchers for 10,000 homeless veterans and cut \$114 million that keeps thousands of disabled tenants in Section 811 housing. Denying housing to homeless veterans who became disabled while serving their country would be unbearably cruel and send the wrong message to our troops fighting overseas today.

We are equally concerned about the proposed 2/3 cut to the Section 202, 811 and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Programs. The \$761 million cut to the 202/811


programs will deny housing to elderly and disabled households who desperately need this assistance. The \$2.9 billion cut to CDBG—including \$74.2 million in our state--will cripple cities' efforts to address the housing and foreclosure crises and provide essential services in their communities.

We request your support of full funding of these vital HUD programs to house the most vulnerable Americans and urge you to pursue alternative strategies to reduce the deficit and to avoid inflicting disproportionate costs on the backs of the poor.

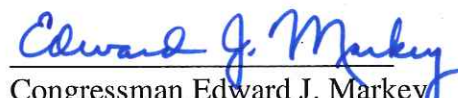
Sincerely,



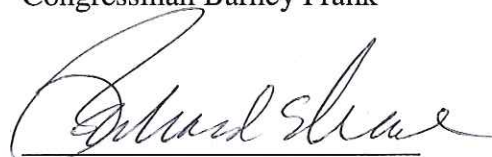
Senator John F. Kerry



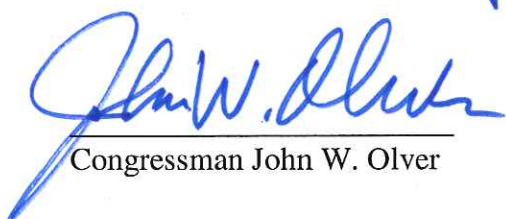
Congressman Barney Frank



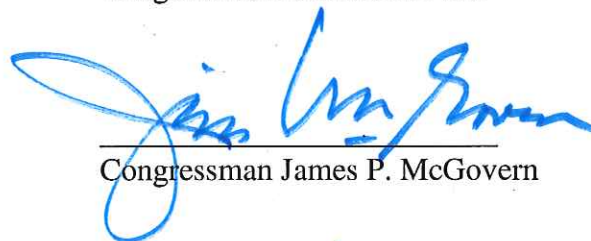
Congressman Edward J. Markey



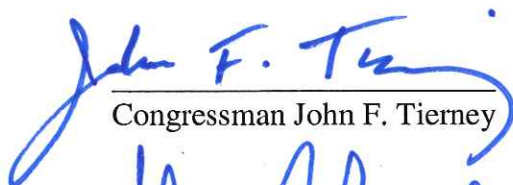
Congressman Richard E. Neal



Congressman John W. Olver



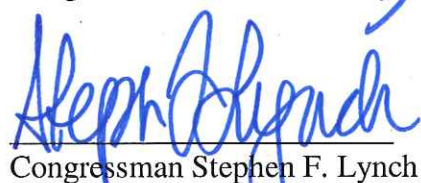
Congressman James P. McGovern



Congressman John F. Tierney



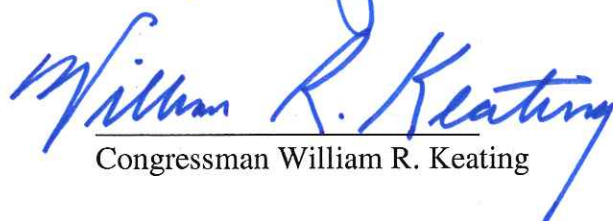
Congressman Michael E. Capuano



Congressman Stephen F. Lynch



Congresswoman Niki Tsongas



Congressman William R. Keating