

July 22, 2025

The Honorable Tim Scott  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Banking, Housing,  
and Urban Affairs  
534 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Banking, Housing,  
and Urban Affairs  
534 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Scott and Ranking Member Warren:

The undersigned organizations are pleased to support the Reducing Homelessness Through Program Reform Act (RHTPRA, S. 2234), bipartisan legislation introduced on July 9, by Senators Rounds, Smith, Crapo, and Reed. This bill would authorize needed reform to the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) homelessness and housing programs, including Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG), Continuum of Care (CoC), and Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV); and establish report requirements which might lead to consensus for the achievement of additional reforms.

RHTPRA would make modest, low-cost or even no-cost changes in law that would ensure existing programs work better for people in need, thus making it easier for communities to reduce and prevent homelessness. The undersigned organizations appreciate the research and cooperation that produced meaningful and bipartisan legislation to address homelessness. We urge you to include RHTPRA in a broader reform package because it would promote opportunities for people to access safe, affordable housing.

The bill would authorize HUD to conduct the CoC program grant competition biennially instead of annually. Congress previously reaffirmed the importance of the CoC program's competitive process but determined that a competition every other year instead of every year would continue to encourage innovation and reward best practices when it established a temporary, two-year Notice of Funding Opportunity for the CoC program for 2024 and 2025. The bill's proposal to permanently authorize two-year grant competitions, at HUD's discretion, would allow for more resources to be devoted to the reduction and prevention of homelessness without increasing the cost of the CoC program.

The bill would increase the caps in the ESG and CoC programs on the amounts of funds that are used to oversee and coordinate services. Homelessness, increasingly, involves all levels of government; braiding together funding from various sources; and coordinating with other sectors, including housing, health care, education, corrections, and law enforcement. Consequently, local homelessness response systems need to spend more time working with counterparts in other sectors as well as planning and coordinating. These changes would allow for existing resources to be used more efficiently without increasing the costs of the programs.

RHTPRA would accelerate the rental unit inspection process without sacrificing the quality of housing units by allowing for appropriate alternative processes; and incentivize landlords to accept vouchers by authorizing housing authorities to use current and prior year available housing assistance funds for standard security deposits for rent, utilities, and fees to hold available units during inspection processes. These and similar reforms would make it easier for landlords to house people in need without increasing program costs.

Finally, RHTPRA includes report requirements which might create a consensus for the achievement of additional reforms, including a report by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine on how to improve coordination between health care systems and housing service providers, given the linkages between health care and homelessness. The bill would also require the Government Accountability Office to report on the documentation required to determine eligibility and resource prioritization for homeless services, and, given the difficulties of people experiencing homelessness in the collection and safekeeping of such documents, provide recommendations for how to reduce documentation-related barriers.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES USA**  
**CORPORATION FOR SUPPORTIVE HOUSING**  
**COUNCIL OF LARGE PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITIES**  
**COUNCIL OF STATE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES**  
**ENTERPRISE COMMUNITY PARTNERS**  
**THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**JUSTICE IN AGING**  
**NATIONAL ALLIANCE TO END HOMELESSNESS**  
**NATIONAL HEALTH CARE FOR THE HOMELESS COUNCIL**  
**NATIONAL LOW INCOME HOUSING COALITION**  
**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) OFFICE OF PUBLIC WITNESS**