

Congress of the United States

Washington, D.C. 20515

April 26, 2021

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
Chairwoman
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable David Price
Chairman
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing,
and Urban Development and Related Agencies

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Ranking Member
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, and
Urban Development and Related Agencies

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro, Ranking Member Granger, Chairman Price, and Ranking Member Diaz-Balart:

As you consider the fiscal year (FY) 2022 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) appropriations bill, I urge you to make addressing homelessness a top priority. Even before the coronavirus pandemic, homelessness had reached crisis proportions in many parts of the country. According to HUD's 2020 annual point in time count, which was conducted pre-pandemic, there was more than a 2 percent increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness since 2019, marking the fourth year in a row that homelessness has increased in the United States. On any given night, more than 580,000 people have no other place to sleep other than emergency shelters, streets, and other places not fit for human habitation. This includes the almost 64,000 people living in the city and county of Los Angeles, which lead the nation in having the largest number of homeless individuals, unaccompanied youth, and veterans and chronically homeless individuals. The pandemic has only exacerbated this crisis, as massive job losses have forced millions of people out of their homes or to be on the brink of eviction. While the CARES Act and the American Rescue Plan included substantial new resources to address homelessness, much more is needed to face this growing crisis.

In particular, I am deeply concerned with the growing population of individuals who are experiencing long-term and unsheltered homelessness. It is this population that has largely driven the overall increase in homelessness in our country. Shockingly, more homeless individuals are now experiencing unsheltered homelessness (51%) than sheltered homelessness (49%). In Los Angeles, the numbers are even more stark: 84 percent of individuals experiencing homelessness are unsheltered, many of whom are chronically homeless. In fact, in Los Angeles, more than 9 in 10 chronically homeless individuals are unsheltered. However, HUD has found that compared to other homeless populations, individuals experiencing homelessness face the largest gap between the resources available and the resources needed to move this population into housing. For this reason, I respectfully request that you fully fund the Department of Housing and Urban Development's McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Grants in FY 2022, and that you also appropriate \$5 billion for Housing Choice Vouchers targeted specifically to homeless individuals, as well as an additional \$5 billion to develop new permanent supportive housing to help close this resource gap. By providing this additional funding, we can deliver a surge of new resources to communities and people who so desperately need it.

In the richest country in the world, it is simply unconscionable that so many of our neighbors across the country are living without a place to call home. The federal government must recognize the national crisis at hand and support communities in their efforts to aid people that experience homelessness. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request. Please contact Elayne Weiss with Chairwoman Waters at Elayne.Weiss@mail.house.gov.

Congress of the United States
Washington, D.C. 20515

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maxine Waters". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

MAXINE WATERS
Chairwoman