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Thursday, June 28, 2007

The Honorable Barney Frank  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Frank:

On behalf of the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH), it is my pleasure to express to you our strong support for the creation of a National Affordable Housing Trust Fund. This fund will be an invaluable resource in towns, cities, and states across the nation who are struggling to meet the housing needs of their citizens. We commend you and the co-sponsors of this bill for your efforts to address America's affordable housing crisis through this important legislation.

The Corporation for Supportive Housing was founded in 1991 and works with communities across the country to develop housing with services to prevent and end homelessness. This strategy of linking permanently affordable housing to supportive services is a particularly effective way to end long-term homelessness for individuals and families who are not only homeless, but who also have very low incomes and serious, persistent issues that may include substance use, mental illness, and HIV/AIDS.

Even for such individuals and families, national data shows that 80% of those who are given the chance to live in supportive housing stay at least one year. The Corporation for Supportive Housing has set a goal of creating 150,000 new units of permanent supportive housing by 2011. New resources, like the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund, are absolutely necessary if we are to succeed in achieving this goal.

In January 2005, nearly 750,000 individuals experienced homelessness in America. In addition to these individuals who have no housing at all, there are thousands more Americans who are on the brink of homelessness due to their inability to find affordable housing. In no congressional district in the country is there sufficient affordable housing. The National Affordable Housing Trust Fund, with specific targeting for households that are extremely low income, will be a critical new resource to support ongoing efforts across the country to prevent and end homelessness.

**CSH HELPS COMMUNITIES**

**CREATE PERMANENT**

**HOUSING WITH SERVICES**

**TO PREVENT AND END**

**HOMELESSNESS.**

The National Affordable Housing Trust Fund, and its priority on providing resources to those in the greatest need of affordable housing, will provide communities with a significant new tool in their efforts to address housing needs. We thank you for the opportunity to provide this letter of support of it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deborah De Santis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Deborah De Santis, President & CEO