

JESUIT CONFERENCE

THE SOCIETY OF JESUS IN THE UNITED STATES

SOCIAL AND INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

June 28, 2007

The Honorable Barney Frank
Chairman, Financial Services Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Frank,

On behalf of the leadership of the Jesuits in the United States, I am writing to express our support for the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund Act of 2007.

There are currently around 3,000 Jesuits in the United States working in 28 Jesuit colleges and universities, around 60 high schools and middle schools, 100 parishes and numerous social works. In many of these works, Jesuits are in contact with low-income people and families.

We witness the effects of the lack of affordable housing across the country in the communities in which we minister, and research supports our experience. There is no question about the need for affordable housing, especially housing that is truly affordable for our low-income brothers and sisters. The legislation you are introducing to establish a national housing trust fund is a significant step forward in addressing the affordable housing crisis in the United States.

The Jesuit Conference has been an active member of the National Housing Trust Fund Campaign since 2002 and will continue to work with the National Low Income Housing Coalition and your office to advance this legislation. If there is a particular way in which we can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our policy director, Mr. John Kleiderer, at jkleiderer@jesuit.org or at the number below.

In Christ,



James R. Stormes, S.J.
National Secretary for Social and International Ministries