



June 27, 2007

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

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Nancy Bernstine
Executive Director

Dear Chairman Frank:

The National AIDS Housing Coalition (NAHC) is a 501(c)(3) membership organization working to expand resources for housing for people living with HIV/AIDS. I would like to express NAHC's heartfelt support for the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund Act of 2007 and to thank you for introducing such important and timely legislation.

NAHC has actively participated in the National Housing Trust Fund Campaign for many years and is a long-time organizational endorser of the Trust Fund. Our members have aggressively advocated for more funding for preservation and production of affordable housing and have made countless calls to their members of Congress in support of both the Trust Fund and the Affordable Housing Fund in H.R. 1427.

HIV/AIDS housing providers and clients have a particular interest in increasing America's affordable housing stock. Recent research presented at NAHC's National Housing and HIV/AIDS Research Summits demonstrates

- the prevalence of HIV/AIDS is up to nine times higher among persons who are homeless compared with persons with stable housing;
- up to 60% of all persons living with HIV/AIDS report a lifetime experience of homelessness or housing instability; and
- lack of housing has been found consistently to be associated with HIV positive persons not receiving appropriate medical care.

For our members, the deep targeting included in your Trust Fund Act legislation, mandating that at least 75% of fund must go to extremely low-income (ELI) families, is a particularly vital component to the bill. HIV/AIDS disproportionately affects low-income populations. Some HIV positive persons who are ill and unable to work survive solely on Supplemental Security Income (SSI). The national average for SSI in 2006 was \$632 per month; this means that SSI earners must spend 113.1% of their income to afford a one-bedroom apartment at Fair Market Rent.

According the National Low Income Housing Coalition, there is absolute deficit of 4.5 million units affordable and available to ELI households. The establishment of a National Housing Trust Fund would be a major step toward solving our country's affordable housing crisis. Thank you for your leadership and commitment to making sure every American has a home.

Sincerely,

Nancy Bernstine
Executive Director



NAHC works to advance the creation, development, management, and growth of housing for persons living with HIV/AIDS in our communities.