



June 27, 2007

Dear Chairman Frank:

The National Health Care for the Homeless Council joins the National Low Income Housing Coalition and counterpart national homeless advocacy organizations in supporting the introduction of the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund Act of 2007 to build, rehabilitate, and preserve 1.5 million affordable housing units over the next ten years.

The National Health Care for the Homeless Council is a membership organization engaged in education and advocacy to improve health care for homeless persons and all Americans. The National Council is comprised of 95 organizational members, over 700 individual members of the HCH Clinicians' Network, and additional member representatives of the National Consumer Advisory Board. Long engrained in the Council's mission is the notion that ending contemporary homelessness must include efforts to reform the health care system, provide affordable housing, and create sustainable incomes for all.

Decent affordable housing remains unavailable and unattainable for low-income Americans and leads to 3.5 million people experiencing homelessness each year. As the cost of housing in the public market continues to increase beyond the means of low-income families, the declining availability public housing leaves our most vulnerable neighbors with no place to turn. Over the past 25 years, federal support of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has declined substantially, in constant 2004 dollars, from more than \$83 billion in 1979 to approximately \$35 billion today. To help end and prevent homelessness, the housing trust fund should target the lowest income Americans and should be capitalized with a dedicated and sufficient source of revenue over at least ten years.

We look forward to working with you and your staff on this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

John Lozier, Executive Director