



March 4, 2021

The Honorable Adam Smith
U.S. House of Representatives
2264 Rayburn Housing Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Smith:

I am writing on behalf of the National Leased Housing Association (NLHA) to endorse your efforts to provide supplemental rental assistance in the form of single use housing vouchers. Since the early 1970s, NLHA has been a strong proponent of the housing choice voucher program and its predecessor the Section 8 certificate program. Our organization believes that public private partnerships are the best way to meet the nation's rental housing needs. The voucher program represents a partnership between local housing agencies and private landlords that offers low income households the ability to choose housing in the conventional rental market.

Tenant based assistance has long been the cornerstone of the federal housing programs and represents a proven tool to be utilized in providing much needed assistance to those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated economic impact. The current network of local and state housing agencies/authorities under the current Section 8 voucher program represent an efficient delivery system to assist urban, suburban and rural renters.

Importantly, your proposed bill will provide housing authorities essential flexibility in meeting the challenges of both renters and landlords perpetuated by the pandemic. The authority to address rental arrears as well as current rental needs along with waivers and the ability to offer incentives for landlord participation will be key to that effort.

We are deeply appreciative of your efforts and stand ready to assist you in facilitating support for COVID-19 supplemental vouchers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denise B. Muha".

Denise B. Muha
Executive Director