



**Public Housing Authorities
Directors Association**

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March 5, 2021

The Honorable Adam Smith
2264 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Smith:

PHADA represents nearly 2,000 members who are chief executives of public housing authorities (HAs). PHADA is pleased to endorse the Ensuring a Long-Term Housing Recovery Act, which will provide critically needed funding to address the serious affordable rental needs of low-income households across the country. As you know, these needs have been exacerbated by the Coronavirus pandemic.

PHADA hopes that the \$25 billion proposed for single-use vouchers will be supported in a bipartisan fashion, recognizing that low-income renter households in communities across the country are struggling to make ends meet and are on the brink of eviction from their homes, which also contributes to health concerns during the pandemic. This rental assistance also serves to address the critical financial needs of landlords, many of whom are small property owners and face financial hardships when renter households are unable to pay the rent.

PHADA appreciates that you have targeted this funding to public housing authorities, which have the infrastructure and experience in their local markets to move these vouchers expeditiously to households in need. Conversely, you have recognized that other congressional support directed to other types of agencies will require establishing new programs where they currently do not exist, creating a potentially slow and inefficient rollout. Additionally, some states and localities may add new restrictions to the program, creating further delays in providing rental assistance to renters as quickly as possible.

PHADA also appreciates your recognition that administering this program, particularly through this challenging period, has a cost, and that you have designated funding for these costs within the legislation. The many tasks and requirements associated with successfully leasing households in need under the dense and complex voucher program require such a commitment.

PHADA recognizes that this expansion of the voucher program will directly address homelessness, housing instability, and overcrowding of low-income households. It will also help tens of thousands of households to gain quickly some measure of security and stability during the pandemic, which will help them get back on their feet and recover financially.

Thank you for your commitment to helping low-income households in need and responding to the economic and health crisis facing our communities. An investment of this size and at this time is a direct investment in America's families.

We look forward to continuing to work with you as you move towards building support in Congress for the Ensuring a Long-Term Housing Recovery Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Kaiser', with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the name.

Timothy Kaiser
Executive Director