



Sowers of Justice

Catholic Legislative Network

**Action
Alert**

***Ask Congress to Fully Fund
Affordable Housing
Programs***

November 2, 2004

Background:

Before they adjourned to campaign in the weeks leading up to the November 2 election, both the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives passed bills appropriating funds for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). HUD is the primary governmental agency focused on affordable housing for low-income people.

There were significant differences between the two bills, differences that will have to be worked out after the elections are over.

The House passed an appropriations bill that fell \$100 million short of fully funding HUD's Section 8 program. Section 8 requires tenants to pay a third of their income in rent and then pays the difference between what a tenant can pay and the fair market rent for a given unit of housing. While flawed, the Section 8 program is the cornerstone of HUD's affordable housing work, and provides participants with some flexibility by offering housing vouchers that tenants can use with landlords willing to participate in the program. The House's decision to under-fund HUD means that fewer families will have access to safe, decent, affordable housing.

Unfortunately, the House Bill goes one step further. To provide funding for Section 8, the House cut every other housing program run by HUD. If the House appropriations bill prevailed in the end, the federal government would be withdrawing millions of dollars from programs that address homelessness, housing for the elderly and disabled, public housing, housing for those afflicted with AIDS, and money earmarked for rural housing and economic development.

The Senate passed a bill that demonstrates a deeper commitment to affordable housing across the board. That bill fully funds all existing Section 8 vouchers, and increases or maintains funding for other housing programs. There are still flaws in the Senate's bill. There will still be a gap between the number of vouchers available and the number of families eligible to use them. But the Senate's appropriations bill is nevertheless the better of the two available options.

Suggested Action:

**Please Contact Your Member of Congress and Your Senators.
Ask them to support the Senate's version of the HUD appropriations
bill when Congress resumes its work after the elections.**

Contact information on page 2 of this alert.
FFI call Matt Gladue at 651-291-4484.

CONTACT INFORMATION

U.S. Senators - Minnesota

Senator Norm Coleman

320 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-5641
Fax 202-224-1152

Local Office:

Court International Building
2550 University Avenue West
Suite 100 North
St. Paul, MN 55114
651-645-0323
Fax 651-645-3110

Senator Mark Dayton

SR-346, Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-3244
Fax 202-228-2186

Local Office:

Federal Building, Suite 298
Fort Snelling, MN 55111
612-727-5220
1-888-224-9043
Fax 612-727-5223

U.S. Representatives – Minnesota

First District: Gil Gutknecht Peterson

425 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Building
202-225-2472
Fax 202-225-3246

Local Office:

1530 Greenview Drive SW
Suite 108
Building
Rochester, MN 55902
507-252-9841
1-800-862-8632 in MN
Fax 507-252-9915

Fourth District: Betty McCollum

1029 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

202-225-6631
Fax 202-225-1968

Local Office:

165 Western Avenue North
Suite 17

Saint Paul, MN 55102
651-224-9191
Fax 651-224-3056

Seventh District: Collin

2159 Rayburn House
Office

Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-2165
Fax 202-225-1593

Local Office:

Minn. Wheat Growers

2603 Wheat Drive
Red Lake Falls, MN 56750
218-253-4356
Fax 218-253-4373

Second District: John Kline

1429 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
House
202-225-2271
Fax 202-225-2595

Local Office:

101 West Burnsville Parkway
Suite 201
Burnsville, MN 55337
952-808-1213
Fax 952-808-1261

Fifth District: Martin Olav Sabo

2336 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

202-225-4755
Fax 202-225-4886

Local Office:

286 Commerce at the Crossings
250 Second Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55401
612-664-8000
Fax 612-664-8004

Eighth District:

James L. Oberstar

2365 Rayburn

Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-6211

Fax 202-225-0699

Local Office:

231 Federal Building
Duluth, MN 55802
218-727-7474
Fax 218-727-8270

Third District: Jim Ramstad

103 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-2871
Fax 202-225-6351

Local Office:

1809 Plymouth Road South Suite 300
Minnetonka, MN 55305

Sixth District: Mark Kennedy

1415 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

202-225-2331
Fax 202-225-6475

Local Office:

22 Wilson Avenue NE Suite 104
PO Box 6010

952-738-8200
Fax 952-738-9362

St. Cloud, MN 56304
320-259-0099
Fax 320-259-0786