To suspend certain requirements under the public housing and housing choice voucher programs during the COVID-19 emergency and to authorize supplemental funding for supportive housing for the elderly, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. CLEAVEN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on __________

A BILL

To suspend certain requirements under the public housing and housing choice voucher programs during the COVID-19 emergency and to authorize supplemental funding for supportive housing for the elderly, and for other purposes.

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

3 This Act may be cited as the “Supporting Seniors
4 and Tenants in Subsidized Housing Act”. 
SEC. 2. SUSPENSION OF COMMUNITY SERVICE, WORK, PRESENCE IN UNIT, AND MINIMUM RENT REQUIREMENTS AND TIME LIMITS ON ASSISTANCE.

(a) SUSPENSION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, during the period that begins upon the date of the enactment of this Act and ends 6 months after the end of the incident period for the emergency declared on March 13, 2020, by the President under section 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 4121 et seq.) relating to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, the following provisions of law and requirements shall not apply:

(1) Section 12(c) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437j(c); relating to community service).

(2) Any work requirement or time limitation on assistance established by a public housing agency participating in the Moving to Work demonstration program authorized under section 204 of the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996 (Public Law 104–134; 110 Stat. 1321).
(3) Paragraph (3) of section 3(a) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(a)(3); relating to minimum rental amount).

(4) Section 982.312 of the regulations of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (24 C.F.R. 982.312); relating to absence from unit).

(b) PROHIBITION.—No penalty may be imposed nor any adverse action taken for failure on the part of any tenant of public housing or a dwelling unit assisted under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f) to comply with the laws and requirements specified in subsection (a) during the period specified in subsection (a).

SEC. 3. HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHERS.

(a) SECTION 8 VOUCHERS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall provide that—

(1) during the COVID-19 emergency period, a public housing agency may not terminate the availability to an eligible household of a housing choice voucher under section 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)) for failure to enter into a lease for an assisted dwelling unit; and
(2) in the case of any eligible household on whose behalf such a housing choice voucher has been made available, if as of the termination of the COVID-19 emergency period such availability has not terminated (including by reason of paragraph (1) of this subsection) and such voucher has not been used to enter into a lease for an assisted dwelling unit, the public housing agency making such voucher available may not terminate such availability until the expiration of the 60-day period beginning upon the termination of the COVID-19 emergency period.

(b) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the term “COVID-19 emergency period” means the period that begins upon the date of the enactment of this Act and ends upon the end of the incident period for the emergency declared on March 13, 2020, by the President under section 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5191) relating to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

SEC. 4. SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING FOR SUPPORTIVE HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated [$1,202,000,000] for fiscal
year 2021 for assistance for supportive housing for the elderly, of which—

(1) [\$845,000,000] shall be for rental assistance under section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q) or section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f), as appropriate, and for hiring additional staff and for services and costs, including acquiring personal protective equipment, to prevent, prepare for, or respond to the public health emergency relating to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic for—

(A) projects for which assistance is provided under a project rental assistance contract under section 202(c)(2) of the Housing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q(c)(2));

(B) projects for which a direct loan under section 202 of such Act was made and for which assistance is provided under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f); and

(C) projects for which project-based assistance is provided under such section 8 in which more than 80 percent of tenants are 62 years of age or older;
(2) [$50,000,000] shall be for installation of, and service fees for, wireless internet services in projects and individual units described in paragraph (1);

(3) [$7,000,000] for a 1-year extension of the Supportive Services Demonstration (SSD) of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, authorized under the heading “Housing for the Elderly” in title II of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2014 (division L of Public Law 113–76; 128 Stat. 618); and

(4) [$300,000,000] shall be for grants under section 676 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13632) for costs of providing service coordinators for purposes of coordinating services to prevent, prepare for, or respond to the public health emergency relating to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

(b) Eligibility of Supportive Housing for Persons With Disabilities.—Subsection (a) of section 676 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13632(a)) shall be applied, for purposes of subsection (a) of this section, by substituting “(G), and (H)” for “and (G)”.

(c) Service Coordinators.—

(1) Hiring.—In the hiring of staff using amounts made available pursuant to this section for costs of providing service coordinators, grantees shall consider and hire, at all levels of employment and to the greatest extent possible, a diverse staff, including by race, ethnicity, gender, and disability status. Each grantee shall submit a report to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development describing compliance with the preceding sentence not later than the expiration of the 120-day period that begins upon the termination of the emergency declared on March 13, 2020, by the President under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 4121 et seq.) relating to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

(2) One-time Grants.—Grants made using amounts made available pursuant to subsection (a) for costs of providing service coordinators shall not be renewable.

(3) One-year Availability.—Any amounts made available pursuant to this section for costs of providing service coordinators that are allocated for a grantee and remain unexpended upon the expira-
1  tion of the 12-month period beginning upon such al-
2  location shall be recaptured by the Secretary.