

United States House of Representatives  
Committee on Financial Services  
2129 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

July 25, 2019

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Chairwoman  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-307, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
U.S. House of Representatives  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1026 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David E. Price  
Chairman  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Transportation Housing,  
and Urban Development and Related Agencies  
2108 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart  
Ranking Member  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Transportation Housing, and  
Urban Development and Related Agencies  
2358 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Lowey, Ranking Member Granger, Chairman Price, and Ranking Member Diaz-Balart:

I am pleased that you and Congressional leadership were able to come to a bipartisan agreement to lift the Fiscal Year 2020 discretionary spending limits required by the Budget Control Act. As you consider how to allocate the additional discretionary funds provided by the agreement, I urge you to make addressing homelessness a top priority. Homelessness has reached crisis proportions in some parts of the country, and we cannot expect to make any significant progress towards our nation's goals for ending homelessness without substantial new funding. That is why I have introduced the Ending Homelessness Act of 2019 (H.R. 1856) that would provide over \$13 billion to ensure every person experiencing homelessness in America has a place to call home. However, understanding the agreement's funding constraints, I respectfully request that you provide at least \$5 billion to the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD's) McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Grant program in Fiscal Year 2020—a \$2.36 billion increase over last year's funding levels. By providing this increase in funding, we can deliver new resources to communities and people who so desperately need it.

Homelessness affects the very fabric of our communities and it degrades the values upon which our country was built. Every American has the right to safe, decent, and affordable housing. But according to the latest estimates, we have seen an increase in homelessness in the United States for the second year in a row. The 2018 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress found that 552,830 people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January 2018. It is a problem in virtually every district, and it affects people from all different walks of life. While we have made significant strides in reducing homelessness through targeted resources, progress has been uneven across the country and has virtually stalled in the absence of new funding.

In the richest country in the world, it is simply unconscionable that this many of our neighbors across the country are living without a place to call home. Several communities have experienced severe increases in their homeless populations, further illuminating that homelessness is a crisis. The federal government must recognize the national crisis at hand and support communities and local service providers who are on the streets helping people experiencing homelessness every day.

Chairwoman Lowey, Ranking Member Granger, Chairman Price, and Ranking Member Diaz-Balart: Page 2 of 2.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request. Please contact Esther Kahng with Chairwoman Waters at [Esther.Kahng@mail.house.gov](mailto:Esther.Kahng@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maxine Waters". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

MAXINE WATERS  
Chairwoman

CC: Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy