

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

**March 17, 2020**

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

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

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

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

Dear Chairman Price and Ranking Member Diaz-Balart:

We are writing to request that the Transportation-HUD Appropriations Subcommittee continue meaningful funding for programs that provide assistance to homeless veterans. Specifically, we request \$47 million for the HUD-VASH program for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021, which is the FY2017 enacted level.

While homelessness among veterans has fallen by nearly 50 percent since 2010<sup>1</sup>, veteran homelessness still remains a problem. According to the HUD point-in-time count, 37,085 veterans were homeless on a given night in 2019. Of those veterans, 14,345 were unsheltered or living on the street.<sup>2</sup> These startling numbers are why it is so critical to support the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program.

The HUD-VASH program has been highly successful in helping our nation's veterans escape homelessness each year. The program combines rental assistance, in the form of a HUD voucher, with case management and supportive services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/pit\\_count.asp](https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/pit_count.asp)

<sup>2</sup>2019 HUD 2019 Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs Homeless Populations and Subpopulations, page 2. Available:  
[https://files.hudexchange.info/reports/published/CoC\\_PopSub\\_NatlTerrDC\\_2019.pdf](https://files.hudexchange.info/reports/published/CoC_PopSub_NatlTerrDC_2019.pdf)

(VA). By combining services, the HUD-VASH program helps homeless veterans return to being self-sufficient members of their community. Through community outreach, we have witnessed the benefits of the HUD-VASH voucher program in our districts. Veterans are provided the stable environment necessary for addressing the factors that led to their homelessness.

We are very grateful that the Appropriations Committee has provided \$40 million for new HUD/VASH vouchers for the last three years. However, we feel that it is prudent and necessary to again fund the program at \$47 million. Homelessness among veterans—even one veteran—is unacceptable. By increasing funding to \$47 million we will show our commitment to ensuring homelessness among veterans is eliminated.

As your Subcommittee considers the FY 2021 Transportation-HUD Appropriations bill, we ask that you support funding for our homeless veterans and specifically the HUD-VASH program. Thank you for your consideration and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



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Al Green  
Member of Congress



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Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



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Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

**HUD-VASH Program, FY 2021**

**List of Signatories**

**March 17, 2020**

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