DATE

The Honorable Mario Diaz- Balart

Representative, Florida 25th District

Chair, House Appropriations Subcommittee

for Transportation, Housing and Urban Development

4715 Golden Gate Parkway Suite 1

Naples, FL 34116

Dear Representative Diaz-Balart:

On behalf of the Homeless Continuum of Care for the State of Florida and local Continuums serving the 25th District and in collaboration with the National Homeless Information Project (NHIP), **we urge you to support a $450 million increase in HUD funding** that will enable funding for existing homeless programs and enable the Nation to End Homelessness among the 100,000+ persons with Serious Mental Illness currently experiencing Chronic Homelessness.

The most recent Point-in-Time Count Data from the State of Florida estimated that on each day there are **5,754 Florida constituents** that are seriously mentally ill and experiencing homelessness, typically chronic homeless for 3 or more years. Additional funding will help bring an **estimated $43 million to Florida** to serve these individuals including significant funding the 25th District. We have attached for circulation to the subcommittee prevalence data for each committee member to understand the importance for their states.

Last year, HUD requested funds to allow expansion of successful Permanent Supportive Housing programs for 22,500 chronically homeless persons. Approximately $450 million was requested in increased funding with $200 million coming from a reduced allocation from the CDBG program. We believe this is a prudent move that supports the crucial priority of helping citizens most in need in our State of Florida and throughout the country.

The success of the Campaign to End Veteran Homelessness which provides nearly $1 billion in funding per year to support over 85,000 housing vouchers and has helped reduce veteran homelessness by nearly 50% can be replicated to end homelessness among seriously mentally ill and homeless persons in our country. The NHIP estimates that funding for 40,000 new vouchers is needed. Passing a $450 million expansion in the HUD Permanent Supportive Housing program will get us half the way.

As Chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee, we asked that you recognize the priority of this need and the modest additional funding that is necessary. We also encourage you to share with your Republican subcommittee colleagues the importance of this funding.

Sincerely,

Name

Title, Organization

**Prevalence of One-Day Homelessness among**

**Persons with Serious Mental Illness during January, 2016**

Data compiled and estimated by the National Homeless Information Project from data

submitted to HUD as part of the annual homeless funding application.

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| **Republicans:** | **District** | **State Estimate of SMI Homeless** | **Funding Needed** |
| Mario Diaz-Balart (FL), Chairman | FL 25th District | 5,754 | $43,155,000 |
| David Joyce (OH) | OH 14th District | 2,608 | $19,560,000 |
| John Culberson, TX | TX - 7th District | 4,352 | $32,640,000 |
| Kevin Yoder (KS) Vice Chair | KS - 20th District | 488 | $3,660,000 |
| David Jolly (FL) | FL 13th District | 5,754 | $43,155,000 |
| David Young (IA) | IA 3rd District | 506 | $3,795,000 |
| Evan Jenkins (WV) | WV 3rd District | 347 | $2,602,500 |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Democrats:** | **District** | **State Estimate of SMI Homeless** | **Funding Needed** |
| David Price (NC) Ranking Member | NC 4th District | 1,656 | $12,420,000 |
| Mike Quigley (IL) | IL 5th District | 1,936 | $14,520,000 |
| Tim Ryan (OH) | OH 13th District | 2,608 | $19,560,000 |
| Henry Cuellar (TX) | TX 28th District | 4,352 | $32,640,000 |

