



NATIONAL LOW INCOME HOUSING COALITION

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Founded in 1974 by
Cushing N. Dolbear

November 5, 2019

The Honorable Mike Crapo
Chair, Senate Committee on
Banking, Housing, and Urban
Development
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on
Banking, Housing, and Urban
Development
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

To Chairman Crapo and Ranking Member Brown:

On behalf of the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC), I am writing to thank you for your leadership as chair and ranking member of the Senate Banking Committee and to thank you for holding a hearing to discuss the *HUD Manufactured Housing Modernization Act of 2019* (S.1804), the *CO ALERTS Act of 2019* (S.2160), and the *Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities Act of 2019* (H.R.4300). NLIHC supports these three bipartisan bills, which would help expand access to safe, accessible, affordable housing for the lowest-income people.

The National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) is solely dedicated to achieving socially just public policy that ensures people with the lowest incomes in the United States have affordable, accessible, and decent homes. NLIHC members include state and local affordable housing coalitions, residents of public and assisted housing, nonprofit housing providers, homeless service providers, fair housing organizations, researchers, faith-based organizations, public housing agencies, private developers and property owners, local and state government agencies, and concerned citizens. While our members include the spectrum of housing interests, we do not represent any segment of the housing industry. Rather, we work on behalf of and with low-income people who receive and those who need federal housing assistance, especially extremely low-income people and people who are experiencing homelessness.

The *Manufactured Housing Modernization Act* instructs HUD to issue guidelines to help jurisdictions include manufactured housing in their Consolidated Plan. Manufactured homes currently provide housing for 22 million people and are particularly vital for many low-income and rural households. Approximately 30 percent of manufactured homes, however, are located in informal subdivisions that often have limited infrastructure and services. By including manufactured homes in Consolidated Plans, Congress can help communities better understand and address the needs of low-income residents and expand access to manufactured homes as a cost-effective affordable housing option.

The *CO ALERTS Act* was introduced in response to the deaths of 13 public housing residents from carbon monoxide since 2003. By requiring carbon monoxide alarms in federally assisted homes that have potential carbon monoxide sources, such as gas-fired appliances, fireplaces, forced-air furnaces, and attached garages, the *CO ALERTS Act* will help protect the health and safety of residents. The bill directs HUD to provide guidance to public housing agencies on how to educate tenants on health hazards in the home, including carbon monoxide poisoning and lead poisoning, and instructs HUD to conduct a public study with the Consumer Product Safety Commission on requiring carbon monoxide alarms in housing not covered by the International Fire Code. If enacted, this bill would provide a potentially life-saving resource for public housing residents.

The *Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities Act* expands the availability of Family Unification Program (FUP) vouchers for youth aging out of foster care. Unlike past versions, the bill does not impose rigid work, education, or training requirements on foster youth. Instead, it allows youth engaged in education, training, or work-related activities the opportunity to extend the use of their vouchers from the standard 36 months to up to 60 months. The bill also requires coordination between HUD and the Department of Health and Human Services to develop a plan to connect foster youth to vouchers and supportive services. Expanding the availability of FUP vouchers and streamlining services will help ensure foster youth are able to receive the support they need to thrive after exiting the foster care system.

If enacted, these three bipartisan bills would help expand access to safe, accessible, and affordable housing for many of the nation's lowest-income people. For this reason, NLIHC supports these bills and is committed to working with Congressional leaders to ensure their swift passage. For more information, please contact Sarah Saadian, Senior Director of Policy (ssaadian@nlihc.org).

Sincerely,



Diane Yentel
President and CEO
National Low Income Housing Coalition