



NATIONAL LOW INCOME HOUSING COALITION

June 25, 2019

The Honorable Chuy Garcia
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

To Representative Garcia:

On behalf of the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC), I write to thank you for your leadership in introducing the “Safe Housing for Families Act of 2019.” If enacted, the bill would require carbon monoxide detectors in all HUD-assisted housing units, protecting the health and safety of residents. NLIHC strongly supports the *Safe Housing for Families Act* and urges Congress to immediately enact this important legislation.

NLIHC is dedicated solely to achieving socially just public policy that ensures people with the lowest incomes in the United States have affordable, accessible and decent homes. Our members include state and local housing coalitions, residents of public and assisted housing, nonprofit housing providers, homeless service providers, fair housing organizations, researchers, public housing agencies, private developers and property owners, local and state government agencies, faith-based organizations, 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 with and on behalf of extremely low income people who receive and those who are in need of federal housing assistance.

Despite the well-documented dangers of carbon monoxide, the use of carbon monoxide monitors is not required in all HUD housing programs. As a result, residents of subsidized housing are at risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and subsequent death. At least 11 residents in federally assisted housing have died from carbon monoxide poisoning since 2013. The *Safe Housing for Families Act* addresses this failure by requiring all federally assisted housing developments to install and maintain carbon monoxide detectors.



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Thank you for your leadership in drafting this important legislation, which would help ensure that residents of federally assisted housing are safe from carbon monoxide poisoning and death. We stand ready to work with you and other Congressional leaders to enact this legislation as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Diane Yentel
President and CEO
National Low Income Housing Coalition