



April 20, 2017

The Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen
2306 Rayburn House Office Building
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Thad Cochran
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
2365 Rayburn House Office Building
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
437 Russell Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen, Ranking Member Lowey, Chairman Cochran, and Vice Chairman Leahy:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we are writing to urge you to reject the reductions proposed by the President for the remainder of FY2017 and to honor the funding levels struck in the budget agreement by Congressional leaders in 2015 for domestic spending in FY2017. The cuts proposed by the Administration for the remainder of this year, if enacted, will bolster spending for the nation's military and border security at the expense of vital domestic programs, undermining funding for critical affordable housing and community development programs.

The Administration has sent \$18 billion in reduction options for the remainder of FY2017, including proposals: to eliminate grants to Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs), the CHOICE Neighborhood Program and the Self Help Homeownership Opportunity Program; to reduce funding for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) by half; and to make cuts to Neighborworks and USDA rental assistance grants. The proposed cuts for FY2017 are along the same lines as those included in the President's FY2018 Budget Blueprint, which calls for a \$54 billion increase in defense spending offset by cuts to domestic programs critical to low-and-moderate income communities across the country. Importantly, the spending cuts proposed for the remainder of this year break an agreement reached in 2015 by Congressional leaders to lift the so-called sequester spending caps and increase discretionary spending by about \$80 billion over in FY2016 and FY2017, an amount that was to be split equally between defense and domestic programs.

As the Congress considers appropriations for remainder of FY2017 this month, we urge you in the strongest possible terms to reject the draconian cuts proposed by the Administration to essential domestic programs and honor the budget deal Congressional leaders made in 2015. Pass



a FY2017 spending bill that maintains or improves funding to affordable housing, community development and other programs key to the nation's low-and-moderate income communities.

Sincerely,

National Community Reinvestment Coalition
Accion Chicago
Affordable Homeownership Foundation Inc.
Baltimore Neighborhoods, Inc. (BNI)
California Reinvestment Coalition
California Resources and Training (CARAT)
City of Dayton Human Relations Council
Chicago Community Loan Fund
Community Link
Global Network Community Development Corporation
Greenlining Institute
Metropolitan Milwaukee Fair Housing Council
The Ministry of Caring
Neighborhood Housing Services of South Florida
PathStone Enterprise Center
People for Change Coalition
Prosperity Unlimited, Inc.
Quad Cities Housing Cluster
Universal Housing Solutions CDC
West Humboldt Park Family & Community Development Council