

NATIONAL
COMMUNITY
REINVESTMENT
COALITION

NCRC

www.ncrc.org



**National
Urban League**



**The Leadership
Conference**



May 20, 2014

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senate Majority Leader Reid,

Together, we represent the millions of hardworking millennial first-time buyers and minority, working-class, and rural families who comprise the majority of the homebuyer market. As their voice, we cannot support a floor vote on S. 1217: The Housing Finance Reform and Taxpayer Protection Act of 2013.

Currently, the bill's weak system of accountability allows institutions profiting from a government guarantee to ignore the credit needs of the vast majority of creditworthy borrowers. The bill makes homeownership much more expensive for those who can least afford it through inflexible down payment requirements and weak borrower protections in the critical areas of fair and affordable pricing. The bill also damages existing fair housing and lending protections, and includes no meaningful power, beyond incentives, for the regulator to ensure access to capital for all creditworthy homebuyers. All of these issues are major barriers to our organizations' support.

We know that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac cannot continue in conservatorship indefinitely. However, it is more important to get housing finance reform right than it is to get it done right now. Our communities cannot endorse a proposal that does not adequately address the challenges traditionally faced by underserved borrowers.

Access and fairness are not points of negotiation; they are the tenets of sound housing finance reform. Before you ask the full Senate to vote on S.1217, we respectfully ask that you consider

the bill's impact on underserved communities and the nation's economy. Housing finance reform should not receive a floor vote until the bill fully addresses access and affordability for the housing market as a whole.

Sincerely,

National Community Reinvestment Coalition

Center for Responsible Lending

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

NAACP

National Action Network

National Asian American Coalition

National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals

National Association of Real Estate Brokers

National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference

National Urban League

Rainbow PUSH Coalition