



The Honorable Tom Cole
U.S. House of Representatives
2207 Rayburn House Office
Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Brian Schatz
U.S. Senate
722 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Quigley
U.S. House of Representatives
2083 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cindy Hyde-Smith
U.S. Senate
702 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The American Institute of Architects
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Washington, DC 20006

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March 10, 2023

Dear Chairman Cole, Ranking Member Quigley, Chairman Schatz, and Ranking Member Hyde-Smith,

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) represents over 96,000 licensed architects and design professionals and is committed to protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public. Since 1857, this concern is central to all that we do. As affordable housing designers and advocates, we know that access to safe and healthy housing is foundational to human wellness. However, many Americans still struggle to find and afford viable housing options.

As you are aware, HUD's 2022 Annual Homeless Assessment Report found that over 582,000 Americans experience homelessness on any given night in 2022. Black, African American, African, and indigenous peoples continue to be overrepresented within the U.S. homeless population.

It is clear that the affordable housing crisis is particularly acute for communities of color, and that we must do more to address inequities in our affordable housing stock. Congress should target federal investment among disproportionately impacted populations, including rural communities and persons with disabilities. Additionally, Congress must continue efforts to eliminate the use of toxic materials within subsidized housing.

AIA appreciates that President Biden has made addressing homelessness a priority, as well as the Administration's support for equitable affordable housing opportunities to Americans in need. AIA recommends robust investment in important federal housing programs. As the Subcommittee on Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies consider the

appropriations bill for FY 2024, AIA urges you to include the following in your funding priorities:

- Increase funding to \$2.5 billion for the HOME Investment Partnership Program.
- Maintain funding at \$1.075 billion for the Housing for the elderly program.
- Maintain funding at \$360 million for the Housing for Persons with Disabilities Program.
- Maintain funding at \$410 million for the Healthy Homes Initiative, including residential lead-based abatement through activities defined in section 1004 of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992.
- Maintain funding at \$86.355 million for Fair Housing Activities as authorized by title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968
- Maintain funding at \$26.863 billion for Section 8 housing vouchers.

AIA and our architect members stand ready to work with Committee members on both sides of the aisle to address America's affordable housing shortfall and inequities within the affordable housing environment. We look forward to continuing to work with you.

Sincerely,



Sarah Dodge
Senior Vice-President of Advocacy & Relationships

CC: The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Speaker
The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries, Minority Leader
The Honorable Chuck Schumer, Leader
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader