Urge Congress to Address the Housing Crisis

Millions of low-income working families struggle because of our affordable housing crisis. 71 percent of extremely low-income renters spend more than half their income on housing, but meanwhile only one in four eligible low-income households receives federal housing assistance. With a new Congress, we have the opportunity to set the agenda – and ensure that they make affordable housing a priority.

Write Letters to Support Affordable Rental Housing

Here are some talking points you can tailor for letters, calls with Congressional aides, or face-to-face meetings.

1. **Introduce yourself** with your name and city. Also note that you are a RESULTS advocate who cares about access to affordable housing.

2. **Share why this issue is important to you**, enough for you to take time out of your busy schedule to write about it.

3. Explain that **access to affordable housing is a serious and growing problem in the U.S.** Studies show that nationwide, there are only 35 affordable rental homes available for every 100 extremely low-income renter households, and a worker earning the federal minimum wage cannot afford a two-bedroom apartment anywhere in America.

4. Note that **only one in four eligible low-income households receives federal housing assistance.**

5. Explain that a **$5 billion increase in Housing Choice Vouchers** would fund 340,000 new “Section 8” vouchers over two years.

6. In addition, **two-thirds of families can be denied housing by landlords simply for getting assistance**, creating yet more barriers to economic security.

7. Ask him/her to tell congressional leaders **to lift the spending caps during budget negotiations and support a $5 billion increase in Housing Choice Vouchers** over the next two years.

8. In addition, urge policymakers to **support bipartisan efforts to ban housing discrimination based on income source** to create more opportunities for families.