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 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** and that you would like Congress to invest in increasing access to affordable housing.

5. **In addition, remind them that families can face discrimination for simply receiving housing assistance** -- two-thirds of families can be denied by landlords simply for getting assistance, creating yet more barriers to economic security.

6. **As House and Senate leaders negotiate budget bills this year, urge your members of Congress to tell congressional leaders that they support a large boost in federal rental assistance.**
7. In addition, urge policymakers to support bipartisan efforts to ban housing discrimination based on income source to create more opportunities for families.