Prioritize Bold Housing Policies in Recovery Package

As your discuss these issues with lawmakers, remember that we have a unique opportunity to cut child poverty by 64 percent by combining universal housing assistance with a child allowance (CTC expansion).

Engage: Since 1960 renters' median earnings has gone up 5 percent while rents are up 61 percent.

Problem: This leaves millions of families paying more than half their earnings for rent. However, only 1 in 4 eligible renters is able to access federal housing assistance.

Inform: Access to housing is critical for the well-being of families. Yet, because of the legacy of segregation, Black households (13% of total) make up 26% of all extremely low-income renters and 40% of people experiencing homelessness [include your own experience and/or why you care]. We can start to undo the legacy of racial discrimination in housing by expanding housing assistance to all eligible renters.

What are your priorities when it comes addressing the affordable housing crisis?

Call to Action: Recovery or infrastructure legislation must prioritize housing assistance for low-income renters and start to erase the legacy of housing discrimination. Will you tell congressional leaders to prioritize housing in recovery talks by making Housing Choice Vouchers universal or enacting a renters tax credit?

We also support increasing the supply of affordable housing via the Housing Trust Fund and reducing racial wealth inequality through homeownership. What are your priorities when it comes to housing supply and homeownership?
Reduce Poverty for Low-Income Workers and Families

As you discuss these issues with lawmakers, remember that we have a unique opportunity to cut child poverty by 64 percent by combining universal housing assistance with a child allowance (CTC expansion).

Engage: The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC) are exceptional at reducing poverty. Together, they lifted 7.5 million people above the poverty line in 2019.

Problem: Before (and during) the pandemic, 27 million low-income children were excluded from the full CTC and 5 million younger workers and others without children in the home were taxed into poverty each year because their EITC is too low.

Inform: The recent COVID relief package fixes these gaps. It increases the EITC for workers without children and expands it to younger workers, thus boosting incomes for 17 million low-wage workers. It also increases the CTC, ensures all low-income families receive the full credit, and allows it to be distributed monthly. Estimates are that these changes will reduce child poverty by 45 percent. But these changes expire after only one year. [include your own experience and/or why you care].

Call to Action: We must make sure Congress makes the EITC expansion and the CTC monthly child allowance permanent. Will you urge congressional leaders to make this a priority in upcoming recovery legislation?

What are your priorities for keeping workers and children out of poverty?

How may I follow up with you on this?