MAYOR
REX RICHARDSON

March 12, 2025

The Honorable Alex Padilla
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Garcia
United States House of Representatives
109 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adam Schiff
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nanette Diaz Barragán
United States House of Representatives
2312 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Staff and Programs

Dear Senators Padilla and Schiff, and Representatives Barragán and Garcia:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, we stand with the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) in asking you to protect key programs at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) from sudden cuts by the executive branch. These programs are essential for providing stable housing to millions of Americans, including 7,352 Long Beach households, and must continue to be fully funded and supported.

In the City of Long Beach, HUD programs provide essential rental assistance that help families across the nation secure stable housing:

- **The Housing Choice Voucher program** supports 5,237 Long Beach residents.
- **The Housing Opportunities for Persons Living with AIDS program** supports 18 Long Beach residents.
- **The Project-Based Rental Assistance program** supports 717 Long Beach residents.
- **The Shelter Plus Care program** supports 58 Long Beach residents.
- **The Veteran's Affairs Supportive Housing program** supports 697 Long Beach residents.
- **The Emergency Housing Voucher program** supports 546 Long Beach residents with vouchers set to expire in December 2025.
- **The Stability Voucher Program** supports 79 Long Beach residents.

These programs do more than provide a place to live; they change lives. The Housing Choice Voucher program can, in certain instances, provide improvements to the physical and mental health of adults and can increase lifetime earnings for children.

Landlords who participate in these programs count on the government for reliable payments. The Housing Choice Voucher program celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2024 and throughout its existence, housing agencies administering the voucher program are widely known for consistent, reliable payments to landlords. Landlords in these programs can vary in size and sophistication from

smaller “mom-and-pop” landlords that are taking their first step in engaging in housing markets to larger corporations that have portfolios that span multiple states. Late or missed payments would break this trust and put many families at risk of losing their homes.

In addition to rental assistance, HUD offers important programs that help families improve their financial situation. Programs like Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) give participants the support they need to become financially independent and reduce their reliance on public assistance.

The federal government, through HUD, must keep its promises to housing agencies, landlords, and the millions of families who depend on these programs.

Local governments in rural, suburban, and urban areas also rely on HUD’s community development funding to boost economic growth and build more affordable housing. Two key programs are:

- **The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)** helps over 1,200 local and state governments fund critical projects such as infrastructure, economic development, housing, and disaster recovery. Over its 50-year history, it has benefited nearly 55 million people and is highly valued for its flexibility and focus on local decision-making.
- **The HOME Investment Partnerships Program** is another key resource, providing essential funding for affordable housing. It plays a vital role in addressing the nation’s 3.8-million-unit housing shortage.

Homeless Assistance Grants are also a major factor in combating the rising rate of homelessness, which can be attributed to lack of supply, decreased affordability, and natural disasters.

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I ask that your office contact the administration and tell them that there should be no executive branch interference in federally appropriated funding for any HUD programs. Congress has the power of the purse and sole authority on distributing funding payments. These programs are vital to Long Beach and other communities they serve and help provide the shelter that people call home.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter and for your ongoing support of affordable housing programs.

Sincerely,

Mayor Rex Richardson
City of Long Beach