

U.S. Senate and House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C.

July 7, 2022

Dear Member of Congress,

As the undersigned religious denominations, faith-based service providers, and houses of worship from across the country, we ask you to proactively support the **Housing First model** as a proven strategy to address homelessness and housing insecurity in our communities.

The wide consensus of the faith community recognizes that Housing First practices uphold the dignity and respect of those of us in the greatest need. Among our diverse theological differences, our ministries share a common vision of ending homelessness and addressing the institutions that make homelessness a continued systemic reality. We recognize that Housing First is rooted in the values and aims of our ministries – with many of our own providers adopting Housing First principles into their own holistic practices.

Houses of worship were among the earliest providers in the U.S. to offer comprehensive wrap-around services to support those of us facing homelessness, including addiction treatment services, job training workshops, mental health counseling, and assistance with access to public benefits. Many of our faith-based organizations continue to offer these services – finding that they are consistent and compatible with the Housing First model. The threat of revoking housing as a condition for these services, we find, is not an effective strategy for building a person's full potential or repairing the essential level of trust for many who have experienced homelessness. Secure housing as a core baseline is critical for the continued success of those of us seeking economic stability.

The experience of our outreach ministries and providers acknowledges that Housing First is an effective strategy that helps stop the cyclical nature of homelessness and affirms that access to housing is a significant element of economic mobility. As a member of Congress, we ask that you offer public support for Housing First as a model, and to oppose efforts to undermine its use. You can read more about the effectiveness and strengths of [Housing First with this resource](#).

Thank you for your consideration.

## National Faith-Based Organizations

American Friends Service Committee  
Christian Reformed Church Office of Social Justice  
Church of the Brethren, Office of Peacebuilding and Policy  
Church World Service  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
ELCA Homeless and Justice Network  
Franciscan Action Network  
Lutheran Services in America  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
Pax Christi USA

## State and Local Faith-Based Organizations

### ARIZONA

Arizona Faith Network  
Grace Lutheran Church, Phoenix  
Lutheran Advocacy Ministry Arizona (LAMA)  
Shepherd of the Hills United Church of Christ, Phoenix

### CALIFORNIA

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary  
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Alameda

### COLORADO

Abiding Hope Church, Littleton  
Spirit of Joy Lutheran, Fort Collins  
Zion Lutheran Church, Loveland

### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Christ Lutheran Church, Washington D.C.  
Dorothy Day Catholic Worker House, Washington D.C.

### FLORIDA

Florida Council of Churches

### GEORGIA

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Atlanta

### ILLINOIS

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Champaign

### IOWA

Memorial Lutheran Church, Nevada

### KENTUCKY

Grace & Glory Lutheran Church, Prospect

### MARYLAND

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Arnold

### MASSACHUSETTS

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Plymouth

### MINNESOTA

Christ the King Lutheran Church, New Brighton  
Faith Lilac Way, Robbinsdale  
St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Mahtomedi  
St. Philip's Lutheran Church, Fridley

### MONTANA

Trinity Lutheran Church of Choteau Montana

## NEBRASKA

Grace Lutheran Church, Omaha

## NEW JERSEY

St. John's Lutheran Church

Lutherans Engaging in Advocacy Ministry NJ

## NORTH CAROLINA

Christ the King Lutheran Church, Cary

## OHIO

Emanuel Lutheran Church, Napoleon

First English Lutheran, Columbus

## PENNSYLVANIA

Berkeley Hills Lutheran Church, Allison Park

Halifax Lutheran Parish, Halifax

Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania

St. Stephen Lutheran Church, New Kingstown

Union Lutheran Church, York

Welcome Church, Philadelphia

## SOUTH CAROLINA

Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Bluffton

## TEXAS

Fort Bend Family Promise

## VIRGINIA

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Fairfax

Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lexington

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, Blacksburg

Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy

## WASHINGTON

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church, Aberdeen

Clarion Counseling, Spokane

Congregation Beth Shalom, Seattle

DaiBaiZan ChoBoZen-Ji, Seattle

Faith Action Network

Open Heart Zendo, Lacey

Our Redeemers Seattle, Seattle

Parallax Perspectives, Lacey

Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Tacoma

St Mark's Lutheran Church, Spokane

## WISCONSIN

Covenant Lutheran Church, Stoughton

First English Lutheran Church, Appleton,

Hephatha Lutheran Church, Milwaukee

Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin  
Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Wauwatosa