

October 25, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden

The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

As interfaith denominations, religious advocates, and faith-based service providers, we recognize that housing is a foundational need, essential to the success and wellbeing of the whole human person. In the U.S. context, our direct experiences have shown us that addressing poverty and galvanizing economic mobility are not fully possible without basic access to a safe, secure, and affordable home. With this understanding in mind, as lawmakers in Congress continue to advance the Build Back Better Act, we urge you to **make housing investments a high priority** in any final package to make a transformative difference in our communities and improve the lives of those of us in the greatest need.

Houses of worship and many of our service providers are increasingly investing in affordable housing to help meet the gap of access to homes in our communities. This comes as lack of housing options has become one of the largest drivers of homelessness across the U.S., and a contributor to many other challenges, including: increased food insecurity, barriers to employment, enduring racial inequities, reduced refugee resettlement options, declined qualities in healthcare and education, and more. As a historic partner with government agencies and local civic leaders, we believe that long-term public investments in housing are urgently needed to fully address these challenges.

Many of our shared social teachings, religious texts, and stated missions recognize housing as a human right. We recognize that insufficient housing investments will set current and future generations for failure – and will further compound the rising affordability crisis afflicting households across the U.S. As ministries with a profound concern for those of us in the greatest need, we ask that you give special consideration for **expanding housing choice vouchers, rebuilding our deteriorating stock of public housing investments, and address long term needs through increasing the supply of affordable housing accessible to the lowest income households**. We urge you to include at least \$200 billion in these housing investments as the entire reconciliation package gets finalized. Our ministries and religious leaders across the country appreciate your commitment to advancing meaningful policies to advance economic and racial justice in our communities. We thank you for your service, and will pray for your leadership as you discern these critical issues.

Sincerely,

American Friends Service Committee
Bread for the World
Christian Community Development Association (CCDA)
Church World Service
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries
The Episcopal Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Faith in Public Life Action
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Georgetown Center on Faith and Justice
Latino Christian National Network
Leadership Conference of Women Religious
Local Church Ministries
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Council of Churches USA
National Council of Jewish Women
National African American Clergy Network
National Latino Evangelical Coalition
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
Presbyterian Church (USA) Office of Public Witness
RESULTS
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas – Justice Team
Sojourners: Faith In Action For Social Justice
United Church of Christ Justice

Cc: National Economic Council, U.S. Senate Banking Committee, U.S. House Financial Services Committee, Majority Leader Schumer, and Speaker Nancy Pelosi