

Elderly Housing Coalition  
C/O AAHSA  
2519 Connecticut Avenue N.W.  
Washington, DC 20008-1520

October 20, 2003

The Honorable Ted Stevens, Chair  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Room S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd, Rnk Mem  
House Committee on Appropriations  
S-146A, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Christopher S. Bond, Chair  
Senate Subcommittee on VA, HUD and  
Independent Agencies  
130 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski, Rnk Mem  
Senate Subcommittee on VA, HUD, and  
Independent Agencies  
128 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable C.W. Bill Young, Chair  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Room H-218, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David R. Obey, Rnk Mem  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable James T. Walsh, Chair  
House Subcommittee on VA, HUD, and  
Independent Agencies  
Room H-143, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Alan Mollohan, Rnk Mem  
House Subcommittee on VA, HUD, and  
Independent Agencies  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

We, the undersigned members of the Elderly Housing Coalition, urge you to ensure adequate funding for affordable senior housing in the fiscal year 2004 HUD appropriations bill now being finalized by the House and Senate. As you know, too many seniors in our community need more affordable housing options. Fortunately, HUD's senior housing programs provide decent, safe and affordable housing as well as the coordination of supportive services for our aging population. While our seniors are aging, so are our buildings. The appropriations bills recognize that both aging people and aging properties need adequate attention in the coming fiscal year.

We urge you to support the following provisions in the FY2004 HUD appropriations bill:

- A revolving loan fund for use as gap financing to assist Section 202 grantees in meeting initial cost requirements for new projects (in the Senate bill);

- Substantial capital repair grants for existing senior housing properties (in the Senate bill) as authorized by statute, instead of limiting the grants to assisted living conversions;
- Technical assistance grants to cover various Section 202 predevelopment costs (in both the House and Senate bills);
- Maximum funding for Section 202 new capital advances and ongoing project rental assistance contracts;
- Maximum funding for the Public Housing Operating Fund and the Public Housing Capital Fund which help provide decent housing for low income seniors living in public housing; and
- Section 8 funding sufficient to meet all contract renewal needs (in the Senate bill). The Senate bill requires HUD to request additional Section 8 funding ( a supplemental) if a shortfall is expected.

Thank you for your consideration of these important issues.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Retired Americans  
 American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging  
 B'nai B'rith International Center for Senior Services  
 Catholic Charities USA  
 Catholic Health Association of the United States  
 Council of Large Public Housing Agencies  
 Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago  
 Lutheran Services in America  
 National Affordable Housing Management Association  
 National Council on Aging  
 National Housing Conference  
 National Housing Trust  
 National Leased Housing Association  
 National Low Income Housing Coalition  
 National PACE Association  
 United Jewish Communities  
 Volunteers of America  
 Wesley Senior Ministries