Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 23, 2015

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development & Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Price
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development & Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Diaz-Balart and Ranking Member Price:

We are writing to request that the Transportation-HUD Appropriations Subcommittee provide $75 million in its Fiscal Year 2016 bill for the HUD-VASH program. The HUD-VASH program is highly successfully, helping approximately 10,000 of our nation's veterans escape homelessness each year. The HUD-VASH program combines rental assistance, in the form of a HUD voucher, with case management and supportive services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). By combining services, the HUD-VASH program helps homeless veterans return to being self-sufficient members of their community.

HUD-VASH is truly a life-saving program. According to a recent report issued by HUD, 578,424 people were homeless in the United States on any given night. While homelessness among veterans has fallen by 33 percent since 2010, homelessness remains a large problem. In 2014, for example, an estimated 49,993 veterans were homeless on a given night. These figures illustrate the progress we have accomplished, as well as the continued need to support the HUD-VASH program.

The HUD-VASH program provides critical assistance necessary for combatting homelessness among our nation's heroes. Through community outreach in our districts, we have witnessed the benefits of the HUD-VASH voucher program. Veterans who were once homeless are provided with a stable environment necessary for addressing the factors that led to their homelessness. The bottom line is that there is great need for HUD-VASH assistance and the data demonstrates that the vouchers are well-utilized.

Homelessness among veterans—even one veteran—is unacceptable. We must continue to fund the highly-successful HUD-VASH program until homelessness has been eliminated among all

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veterans. Congress has demonstrated its commitment to supporting veterans in past years and we believe Congress must continue to demonstrate its support. As your Subcommittee considers the FY 2015 Transportation-HUD Appropriations bill, we ask that you support the crucial HUD-VASH program. Thank you for your consideration and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

AL GREEN
Member of Congress

JOHN CONYERS, JR.
Member of Congress

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FY 2016 HUD-VASH Funding

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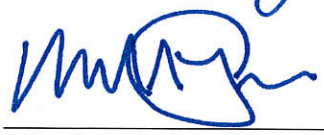
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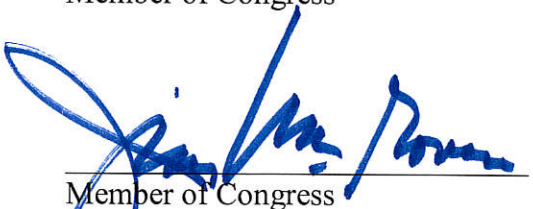
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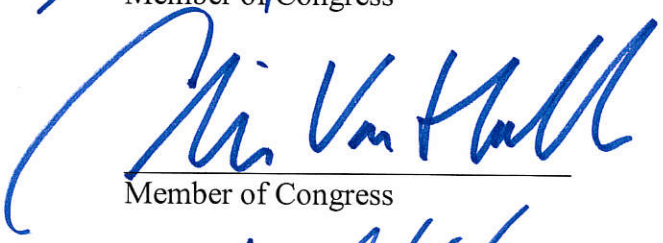
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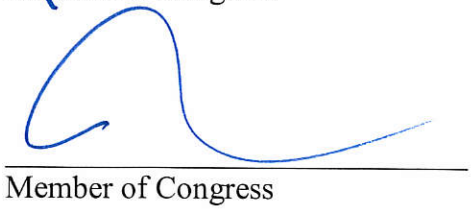
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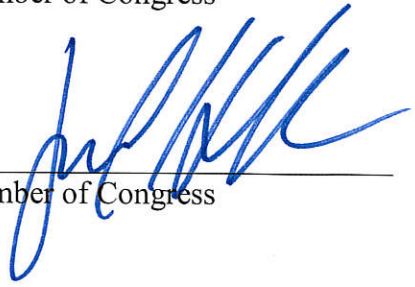
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FY 2016 HUD-VASH Funding

Marcia L Fudge
Member of Congress

Eleanor H. Norton
Member of Congress