



November 16, 2015

Members New England Senate Delegation
Capitol Hill
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators,

As you consider priorities in the coming year, we write in support of the President's budget request for the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME).

As governors, we are particularly attuned to the problems of both housing for our workforce and for our most vulnerable citizens who in highly competitive markets across New England are too often faced with homelessness. Several of our states are directly appropriating funds or bonding to address this problem and all of us are working to reduce regulatory barriers at the state and local levels that can increase the supply of housing.

As you consider funding priorities for Fiscal Year 2016, we speak together on a bipartisan basis in favor of an increased federal/state partnership on the issue of affordable housing. We appreciate very much and wish to support the President's budget request for the HOME program, which has been cut in half in recent years from its one-time high of \$1.8 billion.

The HOME program allows each of us to tailor its use to our unique housing markets and challenges. Some of us use the HOME program to produce and preserve multi-family rental housing. Others have used it to support first time homebuyers, an increasing need given the tight credit markets since the financial meltdown. In some cases, it is also used for homeowner rehabilitation particularly to improve housing stock in distressed neighborhoods as well as to provide rental assistance for our most vulnerable citizens. However we use the HOME program, it is one part of an overall strategy to improve housing conditions for lower income citizens. We believe the availability of capital is critical to building housing, to rehabilitate and preserve housing, and to spur homeownership.



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The HOME Program is a critically important part of our overall housing strategy. As we pursue the priorities of creating and preserving affordable housing, community development, restoration of our downtowns, neighborhood revitalization, and increase in overall housing supply, helping first time home buyers and our efforts to reduce and end homelessness, we need the support and flexibility that comes from the HOME program.

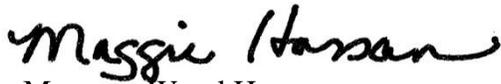
Sincerely,



Darnel P. Malloy
Governor of Connecticut



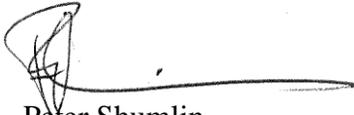
Charles D. Baker
Governor of Massachusetts



Margaret Wood Hassan
Governor of New Hampshire



Gina Raimondo
Governor of Rhode Island



Peter Shumlin
Governor of Vermont