



FEDERAL POLICY PROJECT

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FPP Partners

California Housing Authority Association (CHAA)

California Coalition for Rural Housing (CCRH)

Housing Authority Association of Southern California (HAASC)

Housing California

Los Angeles Coalition to End Hunger and Homelessness

NAHRO Northern and Southern California Chapters

NonProfit Housing Association of Northern California (NPH)

Northern California Nevada Executive Directors' Association

Southern California Association of Nonprofit Housing (SCANPH)

The San Diego Housing Federation

Thank You for Your Support!

Section 8 Voucher Reform Act:

Letter of Support to Congresswoman Maxine Waters

On behalf of the California Housing Partnership and the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles, we thank you for joining with us on the Section 8 Voucher Reform Act letter to Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Chairwoman of the House Financial Services Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity. We are pleased to announce that seventy stakeholder organizations and individuals from across California signed on. A copy of the letter as sent is shown below. Thanks to all who responded so quickly to our request for support.

SEVRA Hearing:

The House Committee on Financial Services will hold a hearing on the The Section 8 Voucher Reform Act at 10 a.m. on Thursday, June 4, 2009, 2128 Rayburn House Office Building. You can watch a webcast of the hearing by visiting the hearings section of the committee website at:

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/hearing/financialsvcs_dem/hrhc060409.shtml.

About SEVRA:

Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers are the leading form of rental housing assistance in California, serving more than 300,000 low-income families with children, seniors, and the disabled. The Section 8 Voucher Reform Act of 2009 (SEVRA) would make significant improvements to the program for the first time in ten years so that it continues to serve low-income Californians while using our federal resources more efficiently.

SEVRA proposes a very important change to the voucher program that will benefit not only extremely low income Californians, but also our housing authorities and developers of affordable rental homes. SEVRA increases the percentage of each housing authority's budget that can be used to project-base vouchers from a base level of 20% to 25% and would grant a further 5% increase for supportive housing developments. The project-based voucher program has proven itself to be one of California's most powerful financial tools for the creation and preservation of affordable homes serving extremely low income households.

May 22, 2009

The Honorable Maxine Waters
Chair, Subcommittee on Housing & Community Opportunity
Rayburn House Office Building 2344
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for the Section Eight Voucher Reform Act (SEVRA) of 2009

Dear Chairwoman Waters:

The undersigned organizations are all active in creating and preserving affordable homes for low income Californians. We are writing you to express our support for the re-introduction of the Section Eight Voucher Reform Act (SEVRA) and our appreciation for your leadership role in authoring and moving this important bill.

We support SEVRA because it offers:

- **A clear, permanent funding policy** to restore stability to the voucher program, which has experienced many financial shocks in recent years.
- **Simplified rent rules for all the federally assisted rental programs** that are easier to understand and implement.
- **Incentives to produce more housing** through improvements to the project-based voucher program.
- **New tools for improving housing conditions** and promoting family stability.

While we strongly support SEVRA, we also ask that you make the following change to the draft bill:

Enable public housing to be converted to project-based voucher authority to facilitate one-for-one replacement by making changes to Section 8(o)(13) in SEVRA. This is a change in voucher policy that is appropriate to include in this bill and is needed as soon as possible to prevent the loss of additional housing units in California and other areas. Californians cannot afford to wait the years it will likely take for Congress to approve comprehensive public housing reform legislation. We need this tool now to avoid the further loss of rental homes that serve California's lowest income families.

Thank you again for your extraordinary leadership in improving the Voucher program.

Sincerely,

Matt Schwartz, President, California Housing Partnership Corporation
Rudy Montiel, Executive Director, Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles
Abode Communities, Aging Services of California, AIDS Housing Alliance/SF, Bakke Graduate School, Berkeley CA Housing, Authority, Beth Stochl Associates, Burbank Housing Development Corporation, Calistoga Affordable Housing, Inc., Chinatown Community Development Center, Christian Church Homes, City of Pasadena, City of Vallejo, Clifford Beers Housing, Inc., Coachella Valley Housing Coalition, Coalition for Economic Survival (Los Angeles), Community Housing Partnership, Consolidated Area Housing Authority of Sutter County, Corporation for Supportive Housing, Diane Murphy, EAH Housing, Faith Community Outreach Council of Imagine LA, Fuller Theological Seminary, GivingWorks Inc., Gubb & Barshay, Housing Authority of County of San Mateo, Housing Authority of the City and County of Fresno, Housing Authority of the City of Alameda, Housing Authority of the City of San Buenaventura, Housing Authority of the City of Santa Barbara, Housing Authority of the County of Merced, Housing California, Housing Leadership Council of San Mateo County, Housing Now, Housing Rights Committee of San Francisco, Imperial Valley Housing Authority, Integrated Recovery Network, Janice Woody, JCG Development, Just Cause Oakland, Leo Baeck Temple, Levy, Levy & Levy, Lisa A. Baker, Executive Director, Yolo County Housing, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, Madera Housing Authority, Maricela Dorado, Marin Housing, Mercy Housing Inc., Mercy Housing Inc., Mid-Peninsula Housing Coalition, National Housing Law Project, Neighborhood Housing Services of Orange County, Neighborhood UU Church, New Directions, Inc., Non-Profit Housing Association of Northern California (NPH), Pacific Housing, Inc., Public Counsel, Resources for Community Development, Rose of Sharon Senior Home Inc., Sacramento Mutual Housing Assn., San Diego Housing Federation, San Francisco Housing Authority, Seifel Consulting Inc., Skid Row Housing Trust, Southern California Association of Non-Profit Housing, Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation, Terra Partners, LLC, The Lesley Foundation, The Saban Research Institute, Childrens Hospital Los Angeles, Ward Economic Development Corp