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Housing Policy Needs a Fresh Start

Contact your senators and urge their support for low-income housing!

A shrinking stock of affordable housing has been a fact of life for decades, but the coming weeks provide a unique opportunity to rebalance our housing priorities and assist those most in need. The Senate Finance Committee has requested tax reform proposals from other senators. The tax reform debate should include the United for Homes proposal to reform the Mortgage Interest Deduction (MID) to benefit more lower-income homeowners and fund low-income rental housing through the National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF).



Use this window of opportunity to contact your senators, to urge them to support the United for Homes proposal, and to have them submit a proposal to the committee. Increased access to affordable housing is a fundamental solution to homelessness, and this is a rare moment to push forward!

TAKE ACTION

Chairman Baucus (D-MT) and Ranking Member Hatch (R-UT) recently sent a [Dear Colleague letter](#) requesting their Senate colleagues to send them tax reform proposals by July 26. The United for Homes campaign, spearheaded by our partners at the National Low-Income Housing Coalition, is a critical proposal for senators to submit.

In brief, the United for Homes proposal would change the MID into a 15% tax credit, benefiting many more homeowners who do not claim itemized deductions like the MID in its current form. In addition, this would save \$197 billion over ten years, which would be used to fund low-income rental housing through the NHTF.

Contact your senators and ask them to submit the United for Homes proposal to the Senate Finance Committee.

- Call the Capitol Switchboard toll-free at **1 (877) 210-5351** to be connected to your senators.
- Ask to speak with the tax staff and request their offices submit the proposal by the **July 26 deadline**.
- Offer to email them a letter of support. Use this [template letter](#) but make sure to customize it for authenticity. You can find state housing statistics to include in the letter [here](#). Also offer to send a [fact sheet](#) on the proposal and [draft legislative language](#).
- If given the opportunity, inform them of the shortage of affordable housing you see in your community.

For more information, resources, and tools, please visit the [United for Homes website](#). You can (and should) organizationally endorse the NHTF campaign on their site as well. Please contact [Dan Rabbitt](#) at the National HCH Council or the [outreach staff](#) at the National Low-Income Housing Coalition with any questions.

Tax reform has not happened in a generation. **Let's use this opportunity.** Now is the time to reform our housing tax policies to adequately fund low-income housing and **ultimately end homelessness.**

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