

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

## VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

June 11, 2021

The Honorable Marcia L. Fudge  
Secretary  
United States Department of Housing and Urban Development  
451 7<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20410

Dear Secretary Fudge,

We write today to express our serious concern that taxpayer dollars from the American Rescue Plan will be improperly diverted to illegal immigrants. We believe this is a misguided decision which drives our nation further into debt to benefit illegal immigrants while diverting funds from hardworking American citizens. We ask that you reconsider this policy, and instead focus your efforts on housing for more Americans in need during the ongoing pandemic.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently issued guidance describing its process to allocate emergency housing vouchers (EHVs) to public housing agencies (PHAs). Under federal law, applicants for federal housing assistance must provide a Social Security Number (SSN) in order to qualify. According to the guidance issued by HUD regarding 70,000 EHVs, the agency is not requiring applicants to provide SSNs.

We believe this is an invitation to fraud, waste, and abuse by illegal immigrants seeking to benefit from the taxpayer dollars of hardworking American citizens. This is wrong not just because it provides benefits to illegal immigrants over American citizens; it is wrong because we are currently in the throes of a crisis on our southern border. By allowing illegal immigrants to access these housing benefits without providing a SSN, HUD is encouraging further illegal immigration to the country in the middle of a pandemic when millions of hardworking Americans remain out of work and in desperate situations.

We call on you to change course and require SSN documentation to receive EHV assistance. In light of this distressing decision, we also ask that your agency respond to the following questions about this policy no later than July 12, 2021:

1. In spite of this misguided policy, is HUD taking any action to ensure that American citizens, and not illegal immigrants, receive assistance? What measures have you implemented to ensure that illegal immigrants will not violate federal law and take advantage of EHV assistance?

2. If and when illegal immigrants do unlawfully receive EHV assistance due to this policy, how will you ensure that American taxpayer dollars are repaid?
3. Will you commit to holding accountable illegal immigrants who do violate this policy? Will you ensure they are referred to law enforcement for prosecution?
4. Will HUD commit to working with us to ensure that EHV assistance is reserved solely for American citizens, especially those negatively impacted by COVID-19?

Thank you for your prompt attention to this serious matter. We are committed to ensuring that taxpayer dollars are not diverted from hardworking American citizens to support illegal immigrants. We look forward to your response on this pressing issue.

Sincerely,



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Thom Tillis  
United States Senator



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Charles E. Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Senate Judiciary Committee



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Tom Cotton  
United States Senator



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Mike Lee  
United States Senator