DATE

The Honorable Susan Collins

Senator, State of Maine

Chair, Appropriations Subcommittee

for Transportation, Housing and Urban Development

One Canal Plaza

Portland, ME 04101

Dear Senator Collins:

On behalf of the Homeless Continuum of Care for the State of Maine and in collaboration with the National Homeless Information Project (NHIP), **we urge you to support a $450 million increase in HUD funding** that will enable funding for existing homeless programs and enable housing of some of the 100,000+ persons with serious mental illness currently experiencing homelessness every day.

The most recent Point-in-Time Count Data from the State of Maine estimated that on each day there are **946 Rhode Island constituents** that are seriously mentally ill and experiencing homelessness, typically chronic homeless for 3 or more years. Additional funding will help bring an **estimated $7.1 million to Maine** to serve these individuals and help similar citizens in great need throughout the country. We have attached for circulation to the subcommittee prevalence data for each committee member to understand the importance for their states.

Last year, HUD requested funds to allow expansion of successful Permanent Supportive Housing programs for 22,500 chronically homeless persons. Approximately $450 million was requested in increased funding with $200 million coming from a reduced allocation from the CDBG program. We believe this is a prudent move that supports the crucial priority of helping citizens most in need in our State of Rhode Island and throughout the country.

The success of the Campaign to End Veteran Homelessness which provides nearly $1 billion in funding per year to support over 85,000 housing vouchers and has helped reduce veteran homelessness by nearly 50% can be replicated to end homelessness among seriously mentally ill and homeless persons in our country. The NHIP estimates that funding for 40,000 new vouchers is needed. Passing a $450 million expansion in the HUD Permanent Supportive Housing program will get us half the way.

As Chair of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee, we asked that you recognize the priority of this need and the modest additional funding that is necessary. We also encourage you to share with your Republican subcommittee colleagues the importance of this funding.

Sincerely,

Name

Title, Organization

**Prevalence of One-Day Homelessness among**

**Persons with Serious Mental Illness during January, 2016**

Data compiled and estimated by the National Homeless Information Project from data

submitted to HUD as part of the annual homeless funding application.

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| **Republican Members** | **# SMI Homeless Constituents** | **Funding Allocation** |
| Susan Collins, Chair (ME) | 946 Maine Constituents | $7,095,000 |
| Richard Shelby (AL) | 1,023 Alabama Constituents | $7,672,500 |
| Lamar Alexander (TN) | 1,824 Tennessee Constituents | $13,680,000 |
| Lindsay Graham (SC) | 643 South Carolina Constituents | $4,822,500 |
| Roy Blunt (MO) | 1,224 Missouri Constituents | $9,180,000 |
| John Boozman (AR) | 301 Arkansas Constituents | $2,257,500 |
| Shelley Moore Capito (WV) | 347 West Virginia Constituents | $2,602,500 |
| Steve Daines (MT) | 298 Montana Constituents | $2,235,000 |
| John Hoeven (ND) | 113 North Dakota Constituents | $847,500 |
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| **Democratic Members:** | **# SMI Homeless Constituents** | **Funding Allocation** |
| Jack Reed, Ranking (RI) | 181 Rhode Island Constituents | $1,357,500 |
| Joe Manchin (WV) | 347 West Virginia Constituents | $2,602,500 |
| Patty Murray (WA) | 2,674 Washington Constituents | $20,055,000 |
| Richard Durbin (IL) | 1,936 Illinois Constituents | $14,520,000 |
| Dianne Feinstein (CA) | 30,561 California Constituents | $183,366,000 |
| Christopher Coons (DE) | 146 Delaware Constituents | $1,095,000 |
| Brian Schatz (HI) | 1,674 Hawaii Constituents | $12,555,000 |
| Chris Murphy (CT) | 747 Connecticut Constituents | $5,602,500 |

