

The Honorable Mike Crapo
239 Dirksen Senate Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Crapo,

We, the undersigned, write to urge you to cosponsor S. 2945, the Republican-led Housing Choice Voucher Mobility Demonstration Act of 2018, recently introduced by Senator Todd Young (R-IN) and Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD). We also ask that you indicate your support to include funding for the Housing Choice Voucher Mobility Demonstration in the final enacted Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) appropriations bill for FY 2019, just as it was included in the FY17 Senate budget.

The Housing Choice Voucher Mobility Demonstration would take an important step in helping families break out of poverty and move to areas of greater opportunity. Through this study, housing authorities will provide targeted assistance to help families who receive housing vouchers live in safe neighborhoods with strong schools, access to jobs, and low poverty. The demonstration will also provide funding for services such as landlord outreach by housing agencies, financial counseling, and security deposit assistance for families receiving vouchers to incentivize voucher acceptance in higher opportunity areas.

There is a growing body of evidence that low-income families with children who move to low poverty areas do better in the long term. This research also identifies housing voucher mobility as a key strategy to overcoming intergenerational poverty.

As a group of organizations focused on the effects housing affordability has on every aspect of the livelihoods of Idahoans, we have seen firsthand how important improving access to high opportunity areas is to reducing poverty and improving outcomes for Idaho children. To help families using vouchers access stronger communities, housing agencies need additional incentives and flexibilities to support regional collaborations.

Recognizing the importance of this intervention, the House Appropriations Committee included funding for it in their FY 2019 THUD appropriations bill. We urge you to take action to assist families in moving to higher opportunity neighborhoods by including funding for the Housing Choice Voucher Mobility Demonstration in the final FY 2019 THUD spending bill.

We are grateful for your continuing work around the need for Idahoans to all have a safe, stable place to live. As you continue to work on this critical issue, we look forward to providing our insights and our expertise from our different sectors to emphasize the importance of housing affordability, helping our families escape poverty, and the positive effect that has on our economy for years to come.

Sincerely,

Peg Richards
President – Boise/Ada County Homeless Coalition



Will Gehl
CEO – Community Action Partnership Association of Idaho



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Executive Director – Idaho Voices for Children



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