

**NNEDV**  
NATIONAL NETWORK  
TO END DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE

1325 Massachusetts Ave NW  
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October 20, 2021

The Honorable Maxine Waters  
Chairwoman  
U.S. Committee on House Financial  
Services  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patrick McHenry  
Ranking Member  
U.S. Committee on House Financial  
Services  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Waters and Ranking Member McHenry:

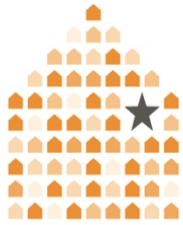
This letter is submitted for the record on behalf of the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) for the House Financial Service Committee hearing on October 21, 2021 on “A Strong Foundation: How Housing is the Key to Building Back a Better America.” We write to you today, joining our national housing partners, in asking you to prioritize **robust investments in the Build Back Better Act for housing vouchers, public housing, and the national Housing Trust Fund (HTF)** because these vital housing programs most directly and effectively serve the survivors who the lowest income and most marginalized households with the greatest needs, including survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

The national housing crisis is exacerbating survivors’ housing needs. When safe, affordable housing options are limited, survivors are faced with the untenable choice between returning to unsafe housing situations or becoming homeless.

Domestic violence survivors, especially survivors of color, experience housing insecurity as a direct result of the violence they have endured. From an inability to pay rent due to job loss, insecurity because of economic abuse, or the harm doer causing property damage, there are many reasons survivors find themselves on the brink of losing their job and home. Survivors also face housing discrimination based on their status as survivors. Research has shown domestic violence victims and families with children are at the highest risk for evictions due to the harm doers putting their housing at risk.<sup>1</sup> The pandemic has only exacerbated these inequalities as survivors have endured a ‘shadow’ pandemic within the COVID19 pandemic.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://evictionlab.org/why-eviction-matters/#who-is-at-risk>



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As you finalize the housing provisions of the Build Back Better Act, we join our partners in the Opportunity Starts at Home Campaign in recommending:

- **Expanding rental assistance by \$90 billion to serve an additional one million households;**
- **Investing \$80 billion to repair the nation's public housing infrastructure for more than two million residents; and**
- **Investing \$37 billion in the national Housing Trust Fund (HTF) to build and preserve 330,000 affordable homes and help end homelessness.**

Thank you for your consideration. On behalf of NNEDV, we urge you to use this opportunity to invest in critical and proven housing solutions to that will address our housing crisis and help survivors maintain and secure housing. We appreciate your leadership on these issues and look forward to our continued work together. If you have any questions or would like further information, you can reach me at [dvagins@nnedv.org](mailto:dvagins@nnedv.org) or our Director of Public Policy, Monica McLaughlin at [mmclaughlin@nnedv.org](mailto:mmclaughlin@nnedv.org).

Sincerely,

Deborah J. Vagins  
NNEDV CEO & President

cc: The Honorable Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi