

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 16, 2012

Hon. Tom Latham
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing
and Urban Development & Related
Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. John Olver
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing
and Urban Development & Related
Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Latham and Ranking Member Olver:

We are writing to request the Transportation-HUD Appropriations Subcommittee accept the President's request and provide \$75 million in its Fiscal Year 2013 bill for the HUD-VASH program to help end homelessness for 10,000 of our nation's veterans. This program is successful because it successfully combines rental assistance, in the form of a voucher from HUD, with case management and supportive services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Together, this program helps homeless veterans become self-sufficient members of their community once again.

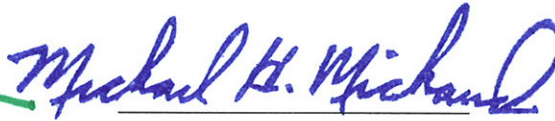
HUD-VASH is truly a life-saving program. Nationwide, in 2009, an estimated 136,334 people who self-identified as veterans spent at least one night in an emergency shelter or transitional housing program. Perhaps even more concerning is that veterans are significantly overrepresented among the homeless population. Only 8 percent of the U.S. population has veteran status, but a recent HUD report determined that 16 percent of adults experiencing homelessness identified as a veteran. Quite simply, we must do better by those who served our country in the military.

We are grateful for the Subcommittee's work to include \$75 million in FY 2012 as well. The bottom line is that there is great need for the assistance that HUD-VASH provides, and the data shows that the vouchers are being well-utilized. Congress has shown its commitment to support our veterans in past years, and we believe that this support must continue as more of our servicemembers return home.

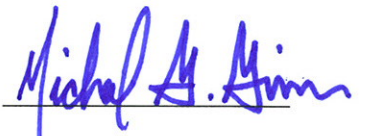
Through community outreach in our districts we have seen firsthand the benefits of the HUD-VASH voucher program. Veterans who were once on the streets now have a place to live, and a stable environment from which to get help addressing the factors that led to their homelessness. We owe it to our veterans to continue supporting this invaluable program.



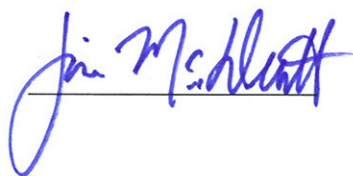
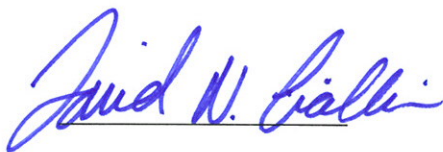
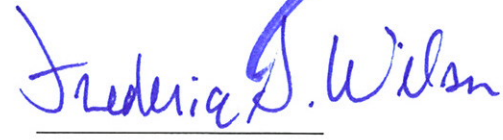
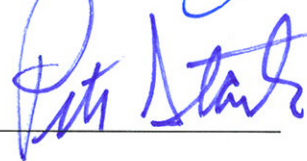
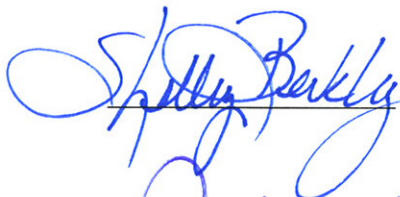
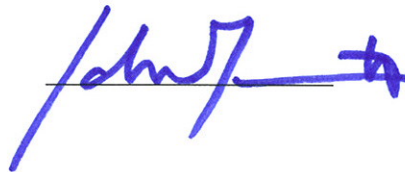
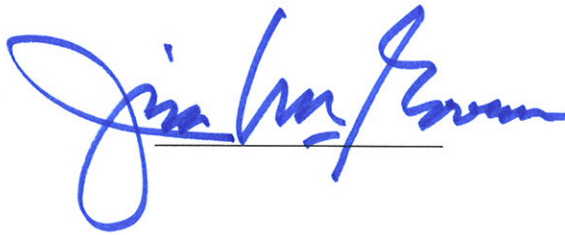
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