



# City of Encinitas

Office of  
The Mayor

September 27, 2018

The Honorable Kamala Harris  
United States Senate  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

*Catherine S. Blakespear*  
Mayor

## **RE: FY 2019 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) spending bill REQUEST FOR SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Harris:

*Joe Mosca*  
Deputy Mayor

On behalf of the the City of Encinitas, I urge you to support the quick passage of an FY 2019 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) spending bill at the highest possible levels.

*Tasha Boerner Horvath*  
Council Member

Our City administers the HUD funding in our community, and we know how important these dollars are to ensuring our most vulnerable neighbors have access to decent, affordable housing. Thanks to the budget agreement approved by Congress last winter, HUD spending in FY 2018 was increased by 10 percent overall, funding that was desperately-needed in our community.

*Tony Kranz*  
Council Member

Fortunately, these funding levels have largely been maintained in both the House and the Senate FY 2019 THUD spending bill, however there is a key difference between the bills. The Senate bill provides a more robust funding level for Housing Choice Voucher Administrative Fees. The Housing Choice Voucher Program is the largest program in the Section 8 family of programs and provides rental assistance to nearly 2.3 million low-income families nationwide. Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) receive funding for each voucher we lease in order to conduct a wide array of activities that ensure the safety of units, eligibility of residents, and other services that benefit our community.

*Mark Muir*  
Council Member

Congress has not provided PHAs with the full funding needed to run the Housing Choice Voucher program since FY 2003. In FY 2018, Congress only provided PHAs with 77 percent of the funding needed. Fortunately, the Senate's recently approved FY 2019 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development bill includes an increase in spending for Administrative Fees that will fulfill 83 percent of our need, but the House bill only included an estimated 75 percent.

*Karen P. Brust*  
City Manager

I urge you to also support the Senate's proposed funding level for Housing Choice Voucher Administrative Fees so we can ensure the safety of units for residents and effectively serve our community.

For these reasons, I hope you will support the quick adoption of a finalized FY 2019 THUD bill. For the past two fiscal years, our city has had to wait until the spring for Congress to finalize its appropriations, leaving us unable to properly budget until

halfway through the fiscal year. This causes numerous operational issues and would be avoided if Congress finalizes the appropriations on time. Please vote to quickly adopt a FY 2019 THUD bill to enable public agencies to effectively plan and utilize federal resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Blakespear', written in a cursive style.

Catherine S. Blakespear  
Mayor

CC: City Council  
Development Services Department