



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

May 19, 2004

Hon. Alphonso Jackson  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
451 7th Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20410

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As members of the California Democratic Congressional Delegation, we are concerned that a new HUD ruling on Section 8 vouchers may retroactively eliminate funding to support many families in California and across the United States.

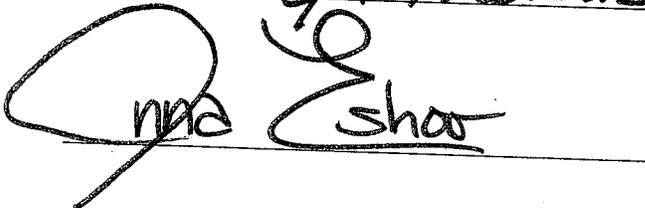
In FY 2003, congressional appropriations for HUD included full funding for all existing Section 8 vouchers. Congress made an additional appropriation of \$1 billion in FY 2004 to protect all families with Section 8 vouchers. However, on April 22, 2004 HUD notified voucher administrators that it will fund Section 8 vouchers only at 2003 levels. HUD's ruling will, in effect, cause a funding shortfall for our state's public housing authorities. It could also potentially force some of California's 300,000 families and children who have authorized Section 8 vouchers out of their homes. In addition, HUD's ruling will likely increase rent levels of voucher holders and decrease maximum rents covered by a voucher.

We strongly believe that HUD should rescind the April 22nd notice and restore full funding for the Section 8 voucher program. This new rule, coupled with President Bush's proposal to cut voucher funding sharply in FY05 and convert the program to a block grant, would significantly undermine the ability of some Californians to afford adequate shelter.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter and response to our letter.

Sincerely,

  
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