

Tom Salomone 2016 President

Dale A. Stinton Chief Executive Officer

## **GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS DIVISION**

Jerry Giovaniello, Senior Vice President Gary Weaver, Vice President Joe Ventrone, Vice President & Deputy Chief for Regulatory Affairs Scott Reiter, Vice President Jamie Gregory, Deputy Chief Lobbyist

500 New Jersey Ave., NW Washington, DC 20001-2020 Ph. 202-383-1194; Fax 202-383-7580 www.REALTOR.org May 18, 2016

The Honorable Robert Menendez United States Senate 528 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Menendez:

The over 1.1 million members of the National Association of REALTORS® thank you for introducing Amendment #3988 to S. 2844, the "Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017". This amendment will restore HUD's authority to offer the Homeowners Armed with Knowledge (HAWK) program. The amendment will promote affordable and sustainable homeownership for American families and increase access to housing counseling.

HAWK will allow homebuyers to gain a greater understanding of mortgage and homeownership responsibilities while improving affordability. Program participants will benefit from reductions in FHA premiums once they complete housing counseling and show a record of on-time mortgage payments.

Thank you for this amendment. NAR looks forward to working with you on its passage.

Sincerely,

Tom Salomone 2016 President, National Association of REALTORS®



REALTOR® is a registered collective membership mark which may be used only by real estate professionals who are members of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® and subscribe to its strict Code of Ethics.