

June 30, 2023

The Honorable Barbara Lee
U.S. House of Representatives
2353 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Lee:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we are writing to endorse H.R. 1087 that would create a mechanism to assist renters with reasonable security deposits and in the case of the voucher program, moving fees, to enable low-income families' ability to secure safe and affordable housing.

Our organizations represent a diverse group of housing providers, including private property owners, managers, lenders, housing cooperatives and public housing authorities (PHAs) who provide rental housing for families and individuals across the country.

The Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program is the cornerstone of federal housing policy, but the dearth of affordable and available housing units has hampered its use in many communities. Compounding the issue, the lack of funds for security deposits and moving expenses is a prevailing barrier to successful lease-ups.

HUD permits use of voucher administrative fees to assist renters with security deposits, landlord incentives, etc. Unfortunately, most PHAs are barely able to afford normal program operations and generally do not have excess fees to allocate for this purpose. The proposed supplemental fees in H.R. 1087 offer a valuable opportunity to bolster PHAs with the necessary resources to provide crucial assistance to renters.

We strongly support the Delivering Essential Protection, Opportunity, and Security for Tenants Act or DEPOSIT ACT (H.R. 1087) which would provide a source of funding to enable PHAs to pay security deposits or related moving expenses on behalf of voucher tenants. We also support funds for participating jurisdictions in the HOME program to provide loans or grants to low and very low-income families that can be used for security deposits. Providing local housing authorities and participating HOME jurisdictions with the flexibility and resources to appropriately assist families will contribute to successful tenancies and increase housing options for eligible households.

Thank you for your commitment to housing low-income families. We stand ready to work with you to facilitate the passage of this important legislation.

Council for Affordable and Rural Housing (CARH)
Institute of Real Estate Management (IREM)
Manufactured Housing Institute (MHI)
National Apartment Association (NAA)
National Association of REALTORS® (NAR)
National Affordable Housing Management Association (NAHMA)
National Multifamily Housing Council (NMHC)
National Leased Housing Association (NLHA)