## April 18, 2016

Chairman Mario Diaz-Balart Subcommittee on THUD Appropriations U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515 Ranking Member David Price Subcommittee on THUD Appropriations U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Diaz-Balart and Ranking Member Price:

The undersigned civil rights and fair housing organizations urge you to support the President's 2017 budget request for \$15 million for a new Housing Choice Voucher Mobility Demonstration. These funds will enable low income families in some of our most concentrated metropolitan areas to have more meaningful access to safer, low poverty neighborhoods and higher performing schools for their children. The funding request is modest, but it would represent another small step toward the inclusive and integrated society envisioned in the Fair Housing Act of 1968.

Under the proposed demonstration, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) would select up to 10 regional housing mobility programs through a competitive process. Public housing agencies (PHAs), together with local partners, would have to submit a Regional Housing Mobility Plan to HUD, describing the comprehensive approach they would use to enable families to make a successful transition to opportunity areas. At least \$12 million would be available over a three-year period to the selected regional initiatives to meet program costs, which may include counseling and continued support for families, outreach to landlords, security deposits, coordination of interjurisdiction moves, and other administrative functions. PHAs would have to commit a specified number of existing housing vouchers to the demonstration. The remaining funds are for evaluation, which HUD must publish within five years of initial implementation.

A growing number of agencies are interested in developing or strengthening regional collaborations to support housing mobility but are stymied by the lack of funding to support the related administrative costs. This demonstration would address this need.

We urge you to include \$15 million for the Housing Choice Voucher Mobility Demonstration in the FY 2017 appropriations bill for Transportation, Housing and Urban Development.

Sincerely,

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Cc: Members of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on THUD Appropriations