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Ways and Means Committee—
Ranking
Primary and Secondary Education
Committee
State and Local Government
Committee



Ohio Democratic Women's
Legislative Caucus
Chair, 134th Session

Ohio Facilities Construction
Commission
Unemployment Compensation
Modernization and Improvement
Council

Lisa A. Sobecki
Ohio Representative, 45th District

Honorable Mike DeWine
Ohio Governor
77 S. High St, FL 30
Columbus, OH 43215

October 27, 2021

Re: American Rescue Plan Act - Supportive and Affordable Housing

Dear Governor DeWine,

Thank you for your leadership throughout the past 18 months during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has been a tumultuous time for our state. I write to encourage you to use American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding the State of Ohio received to expand access to supportive and affordable housing.

Currently, Ohio has a serious housing shortage, and the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the crisis. According to the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO), prior to the pandemic there were approximately only forty-two affordable rental units available to every one-hundred extremely low-income households. To further compound this problem, the average rent in Ohio has increased by 14% since January 2021.

The need to promptly address Ohio's housing crisis is extremely critical. Stable housing is a gateway to educational success and gainful employment, especially in light of our State's stagnant economic recovery. COHHIO's broadly supported proposal to allocate \$391 million towards strategic investments in affordable housing will fill an immediate gap in the housing shortage and provide long term solution and economic growth. I encourage you to review the proposal supported by nearly 200 hundred organizations and entities as a foundational start to expand access to affordable housing.

Should you need legislative authority, I am willing to partner with you and other like-minded individuals to address that need. Ensuring widespread access to affordable housing is a worthy investment by the State of Ohio and an appropriate use of ARPA funding.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to your response and future actions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa A. Sobecki". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and "S".

Lisa A. Sobecki
Ohio Representative, 45th District

CC: Mike McIntyre, Maumee Valley Habitat for Humanity
Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio