

United States Senate

April 1, 2020

The Honorable Ben Carson
Secretary
U.S. Department of Housing & Urban
Development
451 7th Street SW
Washington, DC 20410

The Honorable Robert Wilkie
Secretary
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
1722 I St NW
Washington, DC 20421

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

The Honorable Mark A. Calabria
Director
Federal Housing Finance Agency
400 7th Street SW
Washington, DC 20024

The Honorable Kathleen Kraninger
Director
Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
1700 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20552

Dear Secretary Carson, Secretary Wilkie, Secretary Perdue, Director Kraninger, and Director Calabria:

As you work quickly to implement the homeowner and renter relief provisions of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (PL 116-136) we ask that you work collaboratively to create a single federal resource for information on available assistance that is easily understood and broadly accessible.

Americans throughout the country are grappling with the realities of the pandemic response. Social distancing guidelines are placing physical, emotional, and economic pressures on nearly everyone. Accordingly, we urge you to develop and rapidly make available a single website to serve as a clearinghouse for all new housing policies and tools that homeowners and renters can avail themselves of to get through this crisis. The website should include information to help a homeowner understand what kind of loan they have and the most up-to-date information on the loss mitigation options that will be available to them, as well as contact information for HUD-approved housing counseling agencies. It should also include information to help renters determine whether they are eligible for protection from eviction under the CARES Act or other state or local directives, information on how to access income adjustments if the renter is in federally-assisted housing, and contact information for legal aid or other advocacy resources. The website should be easy to navigate, speak to the public in plain language, and provide answers to common questions as well as a readily available method for people to ask

questions and get answers. This measure has precedent; in 2008-9, the government set up a similar website to deliver useful housing information (www.makinghomeaffordable.gov).

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing from you soon on what steps you are taking to make this information broadly available and easily accessible for homeowners and renters.

Sincerely,

Senator Brian Schatz
Senator Sherrod Brown
Senator Bernard Sanders
Senator Jack Reed
Senator Elizabeth Warren
Senator Chris Van Hollen
Senator Michael F. Bennet
Senator Catherine Cortez-Masto
Senator Robert Menendez
Senator Kyrsten Sinema
Senator Mazie Hirono
Senator Amy Klobuchar
Senator Richard J. Durbin
Senator Patty Murray
Senator Ron Wyden
Senator Margaret Wood Hassan
Senator Kirsten Gillibrand