

# **Catholic Charities of Chemung/Schuyler**

## **Action Alert!**

### **Federal Budget: HUD Housing**

#### BACKGROUND

Plans from President Trump and House of Representatives Financial Services Housing and Insurance Subcommittee Vice Chairman Dennis Ross would significantly raise rents on low-income people with federal rental assistance. The plans would work differently: the Trump plan requires specific rent increases on nearly all Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) rental assistance recipients, while the Ross plan (released as a draft bill) leaves some increases for state and local housing agencies to decide and is largely limited to two major HUD programs: Housing Choice Vouchers and public housing. But both proposals would have many of the same harmful effects (see table).

Raising rents on low-income people would force them to divert resources from other basic needs and expose some to eviction and homelessness. Most of those affected would be working-poor families with children, seniors, and people with disabilities. Both plans also include sharp rent increases for families with little or no income and, as such, would fall most heavily on deeply poor families with children.

The plans could have other adverse consequences as well. The Ross bill would give the 3,800 state and local agencies that administer public housing and vouchers broad discretion to set their own rent rules, and the Trump plan would let HUD provide similar flexibility to those agencies and to thousands of private owners of housing subsidized through other programs. As result, both plans could create a complex patchwork of rent rules that vary from one development or community to another. This would make it very hard for HUD to provide the oversight needed to ensure that rents are calculated properly and taxpayer funds aren't misused.

In addition, local rent rules could create a new barrier to voucher holders who want to move to high-opportunity neighborhoods with low poverty and strong schools, since the new maze of different rent rules would make it harder for families to understand what their rent obligations are in different communities and decide where they could afford to live. Research shows that moving to low-poverty neighborhoods with a voucher can substantially increase children's chances of attending college and their earnings as adults.

The plans would also lay the groundwork for sharp cuts in rental assistance funding. The President's 2019 budget proposed to cut rental assistance funding by more than \$6 billion below the 2018 level.

## ACTION NEEDED

Please call or email U.S. House Representative Tom Reed today.

654-7566 or [www.reed.house.gov](http://www.reed.house.gov) (click on contact)

## MESSAGE

*I ask you to oppose the plans from President Trump and House of Representatives Financial Services Housing and Insurance Subcommittee Vice Chairman Dennis Ross that would significantly raise rents on low-income people with federal rental assistance and cut funding for important HUD housing assistance. These proposals would impose hardship on some of your most vulnerable constituents in our communities and could lead to increased homelessness.*

	Trump Plan	Ross Bill
Raises rents on the elderly and people with disabilities	✓	✓
Raises rents on workers, including provisions that could discourage work	✓	✓*
Raises rents on the poorest families with children	✓	✓*
Allows complex patchwork of local rent rules that would make it difficult to prevent misuse of federal funds	✓	✓
Allows local rent rules that would make it more difficult for poor families to move to high-opportunity neighborhoods with strong schools	✓	✓
Billions of dollars in added rent payments could be used to justify funding cuts	✓	✓

\*Optional for public housing agencies

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Alert Developed by: Catholic Charities of Chemung/Schuyler with material provided by NYS Fiscal Policy Institute and Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (7-18-18)

Thank you for caring enough to act!

**Dear Representative Tom Reed:**

**I ask you to oppose the plans from President Trump and House of Representatives Financial Services Housing and Insurance Subcommittee Vice Chairman Dennis Ross that would**

**significantly raise rents on low-income people  
with federal rental assistance and reduce HUD housing funding**

**These proposals would impose hardship on some of your most vulnerable constituents in our communities and could lead to increased homelessness.**

**I am especially concerned about the major impact these plans would have on Housing Choice Vouchers and public housing.**

**Please speak up for your constituents.**

**Signature**

**Address/Zip**

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