

# United States Senate

April 1, 2020

The Honorable Ben Carson  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Housing & Urban  
Development  
451 7<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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  
Senator Gary C. Peters  
Senator Dianne Feinstein  
Senator Tina Smith