

ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.  
PENNSYLVANIA

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING  
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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 26, 2015

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
Vice Chairwoman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Transportation,  
Housing and Urban Development,  
and Related Agencies  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Transportation,  
Housing and Urban Development,  
and Related Agencies  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman, Vice Chairwoman, Chairwoman and Ranking Member:

As the committee continues work on the Fiscal Year 2016 Appropriations bill, I urge you to support the President's request of \$2.480 billion for the McKinney-Vento Homelessness Assistance Grant Program. I also strongly support the Committee's efforts to allocate \$40 million dedicated funding for youth homelessness. The McKinney-Vento Homelessness Assistance Grant Program awards competitive grants to fund programs that provide a continuum of care by providing transitional housing and helping to find permanent housing for the homeless. During the recession many families lost their homes and this vital program helped keep them off the street. With many families still recovering from the recent recession, it is essential that we continue to fund programs to assist the homeless.

Federal funding cuts and sequester have forced many areas in Pennsylvania to do more with less. Shelters in Philadelphia are often forced to make difficult decisions and have to turn people away due to lack of resources. Funding the McKinney-Vento Homelessness Assistance Grant at the level the Administration requested would create 25,500 new units of permanent supportive housing to get us on track to reach the goal of ending chronic homelessness by the end of 2017. Additionally, we would be able to fund 15,000 rapid re-housing interventions for families to help communities make progress in ending family homelessness. Doing this will allow us to protect those in our society that are the most vulnerable and ensure that no child is homeless.

In closing, let me take this opportunity to thank you and the other members of the Subcommittee for your consideration these programs. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly or have your staff contact Jack Groarke on my staff via phone at 224-2844 or via electronic mail at [Jack\\_Groarke@casey.senate.gov](mailto:Jack_Groarke@casey.senate.gov).

Sincerely,



Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator