

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 7, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Schumer:

Thank you for your leadership in carrying out President Biden's historic vision in the Build Back Better Act in the upcoming reconciliation package. As you work to finalize the package, we urge you to maintain the level of funding for public and affordable housing, immigration reform and accessible transportation in low-income communities. These priorities are critical to the economic recovery of New York City, and our great nation as a whole.

Specifically, as negotiations continue to be held for the Build Back Better reconciliation bill, we urge you to support the following:

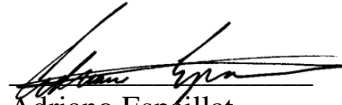
- **Public Housing: \$80 billion for Public Housing.** This investment is critical to the roughly 400,000 public housing residents of New York City. We strongly support this level of funding as it is vital to build back better and sustain healthy living environments for many of our working-class families. We additionally request that you maintain the **\$37 billion for the National Housing Trust Fund** to build and preserve 330,000 homes affordable to people with the greatest needs. Lastly, we respectfully request that you preserve the **\$90 billion to expand rental assistance** to 1 million additional households.
- **Transportation: \$10 billion** to support access to affordable housing and enhance mobility for low-income individuals and residents of disadvantaged or persistent poverty communities. Additionally, we request that you maintain the **\$4 billion** to support neighborhood equity, safety, and affordable transportation access, including reconnecting communities divided by existing infrastructure barriers. Providing and expanding sustainable public transportation options that connect people to affordable housing, job opportunities, and education are crucial to combatting racial and economic inequities in our districts as we work to overcome the global pandemic.
- **Immigration: \$107 billion** to expand safety-net protections and create a pathway to citizenship for millions of DACA recipients, people with temporary protected status, essential workers, and farm workers. It is vital that we preserve the entirety of this funding allocation, not only because these communities have been the backbone of our national economy throughout this pandemic and beyond, but also because the U.S. is their only home and refuge from the political, economic, and climate disasters they are

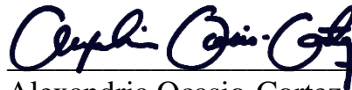
fleeing. Additionally, we are also supportive of maintaining the visa recapture provision that was secured in the House text.

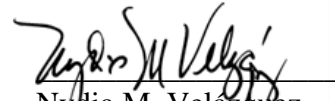
While the American Rescue Plan and other rescue packages helped address immediate health and economic concerns, they were not a long-term solution to many of the pressing challenges facing our nation. We are grateful for your leadership thus far and appreciate your diligence to deliver the transformative change that people throughout this country urgently want, need, and deserve. The Build Back Better reconciliation package is a once in a generation opportunity to build a sustainable and prosperous future for our country-- affordable housing, quality sustainable and accessible public transportation, and sound immigration reform must remain priorities in the debate.

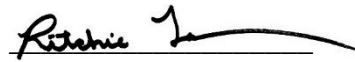
We thank you for your tireless work and for your consideration of this request.


Sincerely,

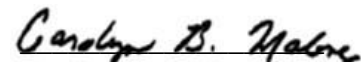

Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

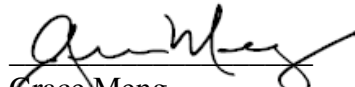

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress

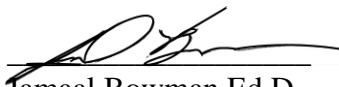

Nydia M. Velázquez
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Ritchie Torres
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