June 29, 2020

The Honorable Maxine Waters, Chair
The Honorable Patrick McHenry, Ranking Member
Committee on Financial Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: H.R. 7301, the Emergency Housing Protections and Relief Act of 2020

Dear Chair Waters and Ranking Member McHenry:

On behalf of the Consortium for Citizens With Disabilities (CCD) Housing Task Force, we are writing to offer our enthusiastic support for the Emergency Housing Protections and Relief Act of 2020 (H.R. 7301). CCD is the largest coalition of national organizations working together to advocate for Federal public policy that ensures the self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society; the CCD Housing Task Force focuses on expanding access to decent, safe and affordable rental housing for people with disabilities.

H.R. 7301 is particularly well-timed in responding to the current COVID 19 pandemic. Many people with disabilities are especially vulnerable to increase rates of infection and death from the virus, and in need of stable housing options in order to stay safe and healthy. The extended moratorium on eviction proceedings is crucial to preventing homelessness and housing instability. In addition, the inclusion of $200 million in funding for the Section 811 program will serve as a critical resource to expand access to affordable rental housing for non-elderly people with disabilities, and help existing multifamily properties address the needs of their tenants to adhere to the CDC guidelines for self-distancing and quarantining when needed. Overall, the package of housing-related provisions in the bill are urgently needed protect the people with disabilities and their families who are at risk during this pandemic.

Thank you for your leadership in responding to the affordable rental housing needs of low-income Americans during this public health crisis. The CCD Housing Task Force urges all House Members to support H.R. 7301.

Sincerely,

CCD Housing Task Force Co-Chairs

Molly Burgdorf                        Andrew Sperling
The Arc of the United States         National Alliance on Mental Illness