

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 26, 2004

Representative Jim Nussle
Chairman,
House Budget Committee
303 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Nussle:

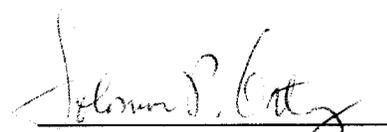
We are writing you today to encourage you to continue the highly successful Military Housing Privatization Initiative (MHPI). Nearly half of all military family housing units were assessed to be inadequate at the beginning of fiscal year 2004, and the MHPI enables the military to eliminate nearly all inadequate units within the United States by 2008.

In the legislation establishing the MHPI, a spending cap was set as a safeguard in case it did not work as intended, but the success of the program has exceeded all expectations. Under the current MHPI schedule, the cap will be reached in November of this year. However, raising the cap to allow the program to continue is problematic because the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) recently changed the way it "scores" the MHPI. Under the House- and Senate-passed budget resolutions, the change in the CBO scoring methodology leaves the Armed Services Committees in the untenable position of either raising the cap and exceeding their budget resolution allocations or terminating this highly successful program. If the cap is not raised or eliminated, almost 50,000 military families will lose access to adequate family housing over the next two years alone.

The best way to fix this problem is to have the final joint budget resolution conference report either allocate sufficient funding to raise the cap by \$1 billion to the House and Senate Armed Services Committees or use OMB rather than CBO scoring for the MHPI. Our troops and their families deserve nothing less.

We urge you to address this problem in the conference report on the budget resolution and allow the Military Housing Privatization Initiative to continue.


Rep. Ike Skelton


Rep. Solomon Ortiz

Chet Edwards

Rep. Chet Edwards

J. Saxton

Rep. Jim Saxton

John W. McHugh

Rep. John McHugh

Silvestre Reyes

Rep. Silvestre Reyes

Vic Snyder

Rep. Vic Snyder

Jim Turner

Rep. Jim Turner

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Jerry Costello

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Rep. Maxine Waters

Carolyn B. Maloney

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Rep. James McGovern

Max Sandlin

Rep. Max Sandlin

Ed Case

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Adam Schiff

Rep. Adam Schiff

Rahm Emanuel

Rep. Rahm Emanuel

Raul M. Grijalva

Rep. Raul Grijalva

C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger

Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger