

Elderly Housing Coalition

The Honorable Paul Sarbanes
Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee
United States Senate
534 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

February 3, 2005

RE: Support for Interagency Council on Housing and Service Needs of Seniors

Dear Senator Sarbanes,

The Elderly Housing Coalition (EHC) is comprised of organizations that represent providers of affordable housing and supportive service for the elderly. We are writing in enthusiastic support of your legislation that would establish the Interagency Council on Housing and Service Needs of Seniors. This Council is desperately needed and will help federal, state and local governments better serve the housing and service needs of our elderly population.

According to the Congressional Commission on Affordable Housing and Health Facility Needs for Seniors in the 21st Century, we must integrate our current fragmented system of programs that seniors rely on to find the housing and services they need. As the number of seniors grows exponentially and will, in fact, have doubled by 2030, we must find a way to use our resources more effectively.

Your bill will be a great first step to bringing the key governmental agencies together to identify how they can best work to maximize program efficiency and streamline access. Again, we are pleased to offer our support this legislation establishing an interagency council and thank you for your leadership on this issue.

If there is anything that the Elderly Housing Coalition can do to help or if you have any questions about the EHC please contact Nancy Libson or Alayna Waldrum at (202) 783-2242.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Retired Americans
American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging
American Association of Service Coordinators
Association of Jewish Aging Services of North America
B'nai B'rith International
Catholic Charities USA
Catholic Health Association of the United States
Council of Large Public Housing Authorities
Elderly Housing Development and Operations Corporation
Kinship Caregiver Resources/Intergenerational Village Project
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
National Association of Housing Cooperatives
National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials
National Housing Conference
National Low Income Housing Coalition
National PACE Association
Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future
Volunteers of America