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