

March 26, 2026

The Honorable Steve Womack
Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Transportation, Housing and Urban
Development, and Related Agencies

The Honorable Cindy Hyde-Smith
Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Transportation, Housing and Urban
Development, and Related Agencies

The Honorable James Clyburn
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Transportation, Housing and Urban
Development, and Related Agencies

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Transportation, Housing and Urban
Development, and Related Agencies

Dear Chairman Womack, Chairwoman Hyde-Smith, Ranking Member Clyburn, and Ranking Member Gillibrand:

As you develop FY2027 appropriations legislation, on behalf of UnidosUS, the nation's largest Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization, I urge you to provide robust funding for the Housing Counseling Program and to prohibit funding for the proposed rule from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) targeting mixed-status households.

UnidosUS, formerly the National Council of La Raza (NCLR), is the nation's largest Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization. Since 1968, we have worked to eliminate the barriers that prevent Latinos from reaching their full potential through research, policy advocacy, programs, and a national network of nearly 300 community-based Affiliate organizations.

The Housing Counseling Program provides expert guidance on a range of housing issues, from renting and budgeting to foreclosure prevention and homeownership. These services are critical to helping families navigate the housing market, building financial stability, and maintaining safe and stable housing. Housing counseling expands access to homeownership, promotes economic mobility, and strengthens communities. Especially in times of economic uncertainty, it equips families to make informed, confident, and financially sound decisions. Counseling also enhances long-term financial resilience, reducing reliance on emergency housing services, and helping families avoid future crises. For these reasons, UnidosUS supports \$60 million for FY2027.

We also urge you to prohibit funding for HUD's proposed rule, "Housing and Community Development Act of 1980: Verification of Eligible Status," which would disqualify entire families from HUD-assisted housing if any member of the household does not have legal immigration status. The rule would punish entire families, including many U.S. citizen children, force the displacement or separation of mixed-status families, and impose burdensome immigration verification requirements on all individuals living in HUD-assisted housing, including U.S. citizens and children. If implemented, HUD's own [analysis](#) shows that it would lead to the eviction of over

100,000 people, more than half of whom are children. This policy would inflict significant harm on vulnerable families and communities while undermining housing stability for working families.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Rodriguez', written in a cursive style.

Eric Rodriguez
Senior Vice President
Policy and Advocacy
UnidosUS

cc:

The Honorable Tom Cole, Chair, House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Susan Collins, Chair, Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member, House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Patty Murray, Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Appropriations