

## PUBLIC STATEMENT

### RESPONSE BY VIRGINIA HOUSING ADVOCATES AND ALLIES TO VA MONEY COMMITTEES STRIPPING GOVERNOR'S ALLOCATION FOR THE VIRGINIA HOUSING TRUST FUND

February 6, 2019

On Tuesday, the Virginia House Appropriations and Senate Finance Subcommittees released their recommendations for the 2019-2020 biennial budget. These recommendations fail to significantly increase to the Virginia Housing Trust Fund, despite the Governor's proposal to expand it by \$19.5 million over two years. The House recommendations included *no* increase to the trust fund; the Senate recommendations included \$1million - just **5%** of the executive proposal - over two years.

In light of the overwhelmingly bi-partisan efforts to provide a \$750 million incentive package over 15 years for Amazon, as well as \$50 million for Micron, we are outraged that selected members of Virginia's money committees stripped this critical support for housing for Virginia families.

Sixty-three out of 100 low-income households in the Commonwealth cannot find a home or apartment that is affordable to them. These struggling households are our seniors, people with disabilities, our workforce, young families and new graduates, living everywhere from the rural communities in southwest Virginia to the metro areas of Richmond, Norfolk, and Northern Virginia. Advocates and community partners working to combat this crisis of affordability submitted over \$17 million in new housing proposals to the Virginia Housing Trust Fund in 2017, but with the current allocations to the fund at just \$5.5 million, nearly \$12 million in urgent housing solutions went unfunded.

Housing is the platform for individual and family stability. If we as a state are concerned about our children's educational outcomes, the physical and mental health of our residents, healthy vibrant neighborhoods and communities, and investing in our workforce, we need to invest in affordable housing and expand the funding in the Virginia Housing Trust Fund. At a time when the state is approving \$50 million in subsidies to Micron and \$750 million to Amazon, it is wholly appropriate and necessary to invest \$19.5 million in housing (just 2.4% of the amount in the corporate packages).

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A-SPAN, Arlington  
AHC, Inc. Arlington  
Albemarle Housing Improvement Program (AHIP)  
Amherst County Habitat for Humanity  
Alliance for Housing Solutions, Arlington  
Alexandria Housing Development Corporation, Alexandria  
Amherst County Habitat for Humanity  
Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing, Arlington  
Bay Aging, Urbanna  
Better Housing Coalition, Richmond

Bristol Redevelopment and Housing Authority  
Britepaths, Fairfax  
Campaign to Reduce Evictions (CARE), Richmond  
Carpenter's Shelter, Alexandria  
Campaign for Housing and Civic Engagement (CHACE), Richmond  
Christ Church, Alexandria  
Coalition for Smarter Growth  
Community Housing Partners, Richmond  
Cornerstones, Reston  
FACETS, Fairfax  
Fellowship Square, Reston  
For Us Not Amazon Coalition  
Fran Lunney, Arlington  
Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services, Alexandria  
Grassroots Alexandria, Alexandria  
Habitat for Humanity Northern Virginia  
Habitat for Humanity in the Roanoke Valley  
Helping Overcome Poverty's Existence, Inc. (HOPE), Wytheville  
Housing and Development Advisors, Richmond  
Housing Opportunities Made Equal (HOME), Richmond  
Humankind, Lynchburg  
LINK of Hampton Roads  
LISC Virginia, Richmond  
Little Ten Housing Authorities of Southwest Virginia  
Neighborhood Fundamentals, Arlington  
New Hope Housing, Alexandria  
Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance  
Pathway Homes, Fairfax  
People Incorporated of Virginia  
Piedmont Housing Alliance, Charlottesville  
Rebuilding Together DC Alexandria, Alexandria  
Rush Homes, Lynchburg  
Shelter House, Reston  
Social Action Linking Together (SALT), Vienna  
Stratford Capital Group, Tysons  
Tenant and Workers United, Alexandria  
The Arc of Northern Virginia,  
United Community Ministries, Alexandria  
Urban Hope, Richmond  
Virginia Housing Alliance  
Virginia Organizing  
Virginia Supportive Housing, Richmond  
Wesley Housing Development Corporation, Alexandria

