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FEDERAL HOMELESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FUNDING INCREASE PASSES HOUSE; LARGEST SINCE 1999

A \$115 million increase will move approximately 9,000 people from homelessness to housing

Washington—The U.S. House of Representatives has passed a Fiscal Year 2007 spending bill that would increase funding for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) homeless assistance grants program by \$115 million, the largest increase since 1999.

The homeless assistance grants program funds emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent housing, and supportive services for homeless people. Based on past spending patterns, the National Alliance to End Homelessness estimates that the additional \$115 million will help nearly 9,000 people exit homelessness and get back into permanent housing.

"We recognize the extraordinary circumstances involved in finalizing this spending bill, and we applaud the Congress for making homelessness a priority. Looking ahead, Congress needs to continue to examine the issue of housing affordability," said Nan Roman, President of the National Alliance to End Homelessness. "The shortage of affordable housing is the primary cause of homelessness, and increasing the availability of affordable housing to very low income people will prevent homelessness and will empty our nation's shelters."

The funding resolution adjusts funding for several key housing programs including Section 8 Housing Vouchers and Public Housing.

"Without these adjustments, hundreds of thousands of people would lose their housing. More extensive funding increases will be needed in the future to ensure access to affordable housing," said Roman.

In addition to the homeless assistance grants funding, the bill increases appropriations for Community Health Centers by \$209 million, including an increase of \$18 million for Health Care for the Homeless programs.

"Living on the street can cause significant health problems or exacerbate existing conditions," said Roman "Improving healthcare for homeless men, women and children is essential to ending homelessness."

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The National Alliance to End Homelessness is a nonpartisan, mission-driven organization committed to preventing and ending homelessness in the United States. The Alliance is a leading voice on the issue of homelessness. The Alliance analyzes policy and develops pragmatic, cost-effective policy solutions. We work collaboratively with the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to build state and local capacity, leading to stronger programs and policies that help homeless individuals and families make positive changes in their lives. We provide data and research to policymakers and elected officials in order to inform policy debates and educate the public and opinion leaders nationwide.

For more information on The National Alliance to End Homelessness, visit: www.endhomelessness.org