

Rep. Albio Sires (NJ-08)**Statement Before the Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development,
and Related Agencies****March 9, 2017**

Chairman Diaz-Balart, Ranking Member Price, and members of the Subcommittee:

Thank you for affording me the time to express my support for two critical programs that will be included in the fiscal year (FY) 2018 T-HUD appropriations bill: the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). As a former Mayor, I understand how critical these programs are to communities across the country, especially our low-income communities.

As you may know, President Gerald Ford signed legislation creating the CDBG Program in 1974 to provide annual formula grants to local governments and States. Over forty years later, the CDBG Program continues to provide funding for crucial projects across our country that urban and rural communities would otherwise be unable to afford. These grants make investments in local and regional infrastructure, spur job creation, and fight poverty in communities that need it most.

Communities utilize this funding to rebuild streets, rehabilitate community centers, improve parks, and replace water mains that are badly in need of repair. These funds also support youth and homeless services, employment training, and projects to provide suitable living for the disabled. Importantly, these funds are flexible enough that local officials can direct them in areas that need them the most. The CDBG Program has been incredibly successful throughout its

forty-three year history and I know first-hand that it has made a lasting impact on towns and cities across America.

Like the CDBG Program, the HOME Program supports projects that would not otherwise be feasible. Using HOME funds, communities partner with local nonprofits to fund projects renovating, building, or purchasing affordable housing for low-income Americans. These projects provide shelter for veterans, senior citizens, and the working poor. As our Nation's affordable housing infrastructure grows older, grants from the HOME Program become more and more crucial to providing safe and affordable housing for those who need it most. On behalf of the towns and cities in New Jersey's 8th Congressional District and the thousands of people impacted by these programs, I urge you to support both CDBG Program and the HOME Program as you continue the appropriations process.

Thank you for your time and I yield back.