

PLEASE PUT ON YOUR ORGANIZATION'S LETTER HEAD

The Honorable *{insert name here}*

U.S. Senate

Washington, DC 20510

{insert date here}

Dear Senator *{insert name here}*,

I am writing on behalf of *{insert agency name here}* in *{insert state here}* to urge you to cosponsor The Frank Melville Supportive Housing Investment Act of 2009 (S.1481). The Senate version of the 811 bill (S.1481) was introduced on July 23, 2009 by lead co-sponsors, Senator Menendez (D-NJ) and Senator Johanns (R-NE).

This ground breaking bi-partisan legislation will make significant changes and improvements to the Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities Program.

Section 811 is a critical HUD program that assists very low-income people with the most serious and long-term disabilities to live independently in the community by providing integrated affordable rental housing linked with voluntary services and supports. The Melville Act will help address the serious housing crisis facing millions of extremely low-income people with significant and long-term disabilities by: (1) making long-overdue improvements and reforms to the Section 811 Capital Advance program; and (2) authorizing a new cost-effective Section 811 Demonstration Program that could create thousands of new integrated permanent supportive housing units each year.

The Section 811 Demonstration Program is designed to: (1) highly leverage capital funding provided through other federal affordable housing programs, including the Low Income Housing Tax Credit program, the HOME program, and the newly authorized National Housing Trust Fund; and (2) provide state and local housing agencies with the rental subsidy necessary to incorporate permanent supportive housing units within new mainstream affordable housing developments. This legislation will also streamline and modernize the current Section 811 Capital Advance program by reducing long-standing

811 bureaucratic barriers, improving the program's efficiency and cost-effectiveness, and providing new opportunities for non-profit organizations to develop 'mixed population' developments that include a set-aside of Section 811 units.

As you know, there is a significant shortage of supportive housing in INSERT NAME OF STATE which forces individuals to live in costly settings funded by federal and state Medicaid and general fund resources. S. 1481 will provide thousands of new supportive housing units annually that will greatly benefit people with the most significant and long term disabilities in INSERT NAME OF STATE>

Thank you for your attention to this urgent request.

Sincerely,

{insert name and signature here},

Cc: ***{insert name here of Senator's staff person that works on housing and disability issues}***