

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0926

“The Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act”
Cosponsor H.R. 1661

Dear Colleague:

Since it was first created more than 30 years ago, the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (Housing Credit) has become our nation’s most successful tool for building and preserving affordable rental housing. By providing an incentive for private sector investment, the Housing Credit has financed roughly three million rental homes for low-income families, seniors, veterans, and those with special needs. It is responsible for nearly all of the new affordable housing development in the country today.

The affordable housing provided by the Housing Credit has an immeasurable impact on the lives of those who live in it, and results in numerous cost savings for federal, state, and local governments. That is because housing stability leads to better health outcomes, improves children’s school performance, helps people gain employment, and promotes economic mobility.

With three decades of experience, we know how to make this remarkable program even better. That is why I have stepped up to serve as lead sponsor of H.R. 1661, the Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act, which my friend, former Representative Pat Tiberi of Ohio, introduced last year. I was an original cosponsor of this important legislation, and I am honored to lead the charge to enact it this year now that Rep. Tiberi has retired from Congress.

This bill will make the Housing Credit more flexible, simplify program requirements, support the preservation of existing affordable housing, facilitate Housing Credit development in challenging markets and for hard-to-reach populations, and institute other modifications to make the Credit an even more effective program.

I was proud that Congress, after having retained the Housing Credit program in tax reform last year, further strengthened the program by enacting a key provision of my legislation—income averaging—in the recently passed 2018 omnibus spending legislation. It is now time to advance the rest of H.R. 1661 so that the program will be best able to meet today’s affordable housing challenges.

Already more than one-third of House members have cosponsored this legislation, including over two-thirds of the Ways and Means Committee. The bill is broadly bipartisan, with near equal numbers of Republicans and Democrats supporting it. That is because it is truly a good governance approach to strengthening a program that has long demonstrated proven results across the nation.

Please join me in cosponsoring this important legislation to help address our country’s housing crisis. For more information or to cosponsor, please contact James Todd in Mr. Curbelo’s office at james.todd@mail.house.gov.



Carlos Curbelo