



**Resolution in Support of *Robust Investments for  
Affordable Homes in the Build Back Better Act to House NJ***

WHEREAS, housing insecurity is one of the biggest threats to public health and safety at any time, but never more so than during the coronavirus pandemic, and our policies must center those who have been harmed most by the pandemic so that we recover equitably;

WHEREAS, Congress is considering once-in-a lifetime investments in housing affordability, stability and security will lay a foundation that help create a more affordable NJ for generations to come in the Build Back Better agenda and its components; .

WHEREAS, the pandemic has caused untold economic hardship for residents and communities, with the threat of foreclosures, evictions and homelessness for many families through no fault of their own

WHEREAS, only one in four households eligible for rental assistance receives it due to decades of chronic underfunding by Congress. People of color – especially women of color – and other marginalized renters are most harmed by the housing crisis;

WHEREAS, in NJ, renters need an income of 31.96 an hour on average to afford a modest, two-bedroom apartment. This is far above the incomes of many working families, seniors, and people with disabilities;

WHEREAS, there is no state or congressional district in America with enough supply of affordable homes for families with the lowest incomes;

WHEREAS, everyone has struggled under the weight of the pandemic, Black and Brown residents in our state have been disproportionately impacted, while continuing to suffer from hundreds of years of systemic racism and institutional inequities;

WHEREAS Congress must work to bridge the gap between incomes and housing costs by expanding rental assistance;

WHEREAS, by expanding rental assistance, the Build Back Better economic recovery package can help bridge the gap between wages and housing costs for America's lowest-income and most marginalized households;

WHEREAS, by preserving the nation's public housing and building new homes affordable to people with the greatest needs through the national Housing Trust Fund, the Build Back Better Act directly addresses the severe shortage of affordable housing for people with the lowest incomes,

THEREFORE, the U.S. must make robust investments in affordable homes in any budget reconciliation bill similar to what was in the Build Back Better Bill that passed the House, including an expansion of rental assistance by \$25 billion to serve 300,000 additional households; \$65 billion to repair public housing, which is home to 2.5 million residents; and \$15 billion in the national Housing Trust Fund to build and preserve 150,000 homes affordable to people with the greatest needs.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, [municipality] encourages Congress to include the Build Back Better Act's robust funding to address housing instability and unaffordability and to mitigate the threat of pandemic-related homelessness in any budget reconciliation bill.