

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 4, 2018

Dr. Ben Carson  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
451 7<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, D.C. 20410

Secretary Carson,

We, the undersigned members of the House Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Subcommittee, write to you today to express our dismay at the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) missed deadline for review of crucial nondiscrimination guidance documents.

In early 2017, under your direction, HUD removed, for review, six resource documents aimed at helping emergency homeless shelters and other housing providers comply with HUD nondiscrimination regarding Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) service recipients. In accordance with Congressional instructions accompanying the Fiscal Year 2018 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Act, HUD was directed to expedite its review and issue a formal decision regarding the reissuance of those resources within 180 days of the enactment of that Act.

That 180-day review period expired on September 19, 2018, yet HUD has failed to issue a final determination as to the relevant documents, nor has it republished the documents in the appropriate locations.

Housing experts and LGBT housing advocates from across the country, including in many of our congressional districts, have said that the HUD guidance is integral to ensuring that vulnerable LGBT individuals experiencing housing instability or homelessness can safely and effectively access the services they need. Further, during your meeting in Chicago, IL on July 20, 2018 with six members of the Chicago LGBT Housing community, you heard directly from those affected by the removal of the guidance.

Housing discrimination in the LGBT community is not a small problem. An estimated 40 percent of homeless youth identify as LGBT and nearly 30 percent of transgender Americans say that they have experienced homelessness at some point in their lives. The guidance provides practical advice for service providers on critical issues, such as proper identification at shelters and other service locations, as well as best practices for achieving gender-inclusive housing that meets the needs of local communities.

HUD's failure to meet the September 19th deadline is unacceptable. Every day that this guidance is unavailable to housing service providers nationwide puts lives at risk, a majority of whom are young adults, and is a missed opportunity for achieving better outcomes in emergency housing intervention.

Now that the deadline has passed, HUD must act immediately to conclude its review of these resources and reinstate this guidance.

Thank you and we look forward to a prompt reply.

Sincerely,

  
Nita M. Lowey  
Member of Congress

  
Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress

  
David Price  
Member of Congress

  
Pete Aguilar  
Member of Congress

  
Katherine Clark  
Member of Congress