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# NATIONAL LAW CENTER ON HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY

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September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Pete Dougherty  
U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness  
409 Third Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Mr. Dougherty,

On behalf of the Homeless Advocates Group, I write to thank you for taking the time to meet with us today to discuss the national plan to end homelessness. As we mentioned, we are eager to work with you and the members of the Council to develop an effective plan that will end homelessness in the United States.

We appreciated the information you, Mark Johnston, Gordon Burke, and Flavio Menasce provided regarding current agency efforts. We also appreciated your offer to recommend that representatives of the Homeless Advocates Group be invited to present our consensus recommendations at an official meeting of the Council and to discuss the plan. We will look forward to working with you on that. Additionally, you mentioned the Council may develop task forces to work on particular issues or goals related to particular subpopulations and these entities may provide an opportunity for advocates and homeless persons to provide input on unmet needs and recommended policies. We look forward to working with you to ensure that advocates, providers, and homeless persons have an opportunity to make their voices heard as the plan development progresses.

As we mentioned, it is vital that any federal plan to end homelessness include policies and programs to ensure access to housing, adequate incomes, health care, education, and civil rights for homeless persons and other poor persons at risk of homelessness. It is also essential that the process for developing the plan include input from national, state and local advocates as well as homeless and formerly homeless people themselves. The plan must include measurable goals and outcomes, a specific timetable, and an evaluation mechanism. To engage support for the plan, the Administration should hold a White House Conference to introduce the plan and plans for implementation.

We look forward to working with you and your colleagues to develop and implement an effective plan to end homelessness in America.

Thank you again,

National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty  
Corporation for Supportive Housing  
Family Promise  
Give Us Your Poor  
National AIDS Housing Coalition  
National Alliance to End Homelessness  
National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth  
The National Center on Family Homelessness  
The National Coalition for the Homeless  
National Health Care for the Homeless Council  
National Center for Housing & Child Welfare  
National Low Income Housing Coalition  
National Policy and Advocacy Council on Homelessness  
National Network to End Domestic Violence  
National Network 4 Youth  
Western Regional Advocacy Project

cc: Mark Johnston, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of Housing and  
Urban Development  
Gordon Burke, Jr, Director of Operations, Grants, and Transition  
Programs, U.S. Department of Labor  
Flavio Menasce, Social Science Analyst, U.S. Department of Labor