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United States Senate

October 17, 2016

The Honorable Julián Castro
Secretary of the United States Department
of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20410

RE: Project Based HUD-VASH Allocation for Lake County, Indiana – Notice PIH 2016-11(HA)

Dear Mr. Secretary:

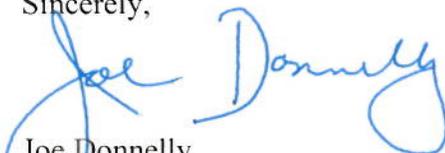
As Senator from Indiana and a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I strongly believe that when we take care of our service members and veterans, we honor their service and we reinforce our values. Like you, I am committed to the ambitious goal of ending veteran homelessness.

The Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) is leading an effort to build 75 new, affordable apartments in Lake County, Indiana. These apartments will be built to accommodate homeless veterans referred by VISN 12 – VA Great Lakes Health Care System, and will be located near the Adam Benjamin Jr. VA Community Based Outpatient Center (CBOC) in Crown Point, Indiana. This CBOC offers a wide spectrum of healthcare services including primary care, mental health services and addictions treatment, chronic condition management and education, and specialty care.

The availability of affordable apartments near this CBOC removes significant access barriers for the residents, and increases the likelihood of successful transitions from homelessness. However, Lake County does not have enough quality, affordable housing to accommodate the homeless veterans that could be served by the CBOC. Supporting the project with HUD-VASH funding will help address this gap and provide housing for some of our most vulnerable veterans.

I urge the Department of Housing and Urban Development to give full and fair consideration to IHCDA's application in accordance with U.S. law and public policy. I would appreciate being notified when a decision is made. Questions and announcements can be directed to my office by contacting Marianne Black at Marianne_Black@donnelly.senate.gov or by telephone at (317) 226-5555.

Sincerely,


Joe Donnelly
United States Senator