

CHICAGO REHAB NETWORK

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The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
309 Hart Senate Building  
Washington DC  
20510

Tuesday December 4, 2007

Dear Senator,

Thank you for your interest and leadership on the foreclosure issue devastating both individual households and communities here in Illinois and virtually across the country. We are encouraged that you introduced a bill to modify homeowners' mortgages in bankruptcy to avoid foreclosure. We are writing today on the same issue: the importance and immediacy of affordable housing has reached untold proportions. You know the news. Housing is front page of today's Sun Times (December 4, 2007) as well as front page of Crain's Chicago Business, The Chicago Tribune, The Chicago Reporter, The Wall Street Journal, and The New York Times. The leads covering housing continue almost daily. The economic impact of this loss of affordability has yet to be felt. Just last week the Conference of US Mayors reported that the mortgage crisis will cost the Chicago area alone \$4 billion.

We need your leadership, Senator, on moving the affordable housing provisions passed this fall in the House of Representatives to be heard and passed in the Senate. The various bills provide a solid start at moving a coordinated federal response for affordable housing. What we know here in Chicago firsthand, and you have led on before, is that a robust rental supply is a prerequisite to meeting the needs of all Americans. Nothing can be more fundamental than recognizing that mortgage foreclosures increase the need for rental housing. Our members report that families with destroyed credit are struggling to find rental options. The Trust Fund passed by the House signals to the country its time to support rental housing. We need you. We need the Senate. We need our Federal Government to support affordable housing.

Thank you. We look forward to continue working with your office in the near future.

Respectfully,

Kevin Jackson  
Executive Director  
Chicago Rehab Network