

Waters Amendment (#1) to the Views and Estimates of the Committee on Financial Services on Matters to be Set Forth in the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2019

Offered by Ms. Waters of California

On page 10 after line 22 insert the following:

Homeless Assistance

The Committee believes that it should be a priority to end homelessness in this country, which has reached crisis proportions in some parts of the country. Supporting a functional end to homelessness in this country starts with robust funding for HUD's McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Grants programs. After the passage of the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act in 2009, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) put forward the *Opening Doors* strategy, the first-ever Federal strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness. Since that time, we have seen overall declines in chronic homelessness, veteran homelessness, and family homelessness. However, according to HUD's most recent point-in-time count, there were still over 550,000 people experiencing homelessness on any given night in January 2017, with homelessness increasing nationwide for the first time in seven years. Most troublingly, this report also found that 20 percent of the homelessness population, or 114,829 people, are children experiencing homelessness, and over seven percent are veterans.

The Committee fully supports the goals of ending homelessness in America set forth in *Opening Doors*, and recognizes that increased funding is necessary to achieve those goals, in addition to effective partnerships across all sectors to ensure effective targeting of funds. To that end, the Committee will review proposals that focus on achieving a functional end homelessness.