

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 28, 2018

## VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

The Honorable Benjamin S. Carson, Sr.  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
451 7<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Secretary Carson:

We are writing to express our concern with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) looming threat to evict the remaining residents of Elmwood and McBride housing complexes in Cairo, Illinois, and to request assurance that HUD will honor the guarantee given by you and your staff to take every available measure to avoid evicting even one of our constituents.

In April 2017, after years of mismanagement by the local housing authority and lack of proper oversight from HUD, a decision was made to demolish the Elmwood and McBride housing complexes, forcing 185 families to find new housing. A year later, HUD imposed a mandatory move out date of June 30, 2018, giving remaining residents just two months to find new homes or risk eviction. Of the 185 families, 23 are still in the process of finding and relocating to safe and affordable housing, and are at risk of facing evictions in the very near future.

We reiterate our request that HUD provide complete access to mobility and relocation specialists and extend maximum flexibility to all remaining families, especially those who face additional hardships to finding new housing. It is the responsibility of HUD to reach out and engage with all remaining families, clearly communicate to them their available options, relay the consequences of not engaging with HUD and continue to provide proactive assistance to each family until they can find a new home.

For several years, our constituents have been living through a manufactured crisis, which HUD played a role in creating. Given the impending threat of eviction now faced by the remaining families, we request assurance that HUD will take every available measure to avoid evicting any of the remaining 23 families. We look forward to your prompt response to our concerns.

Sincerely,



Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator