A Bold Federal Response to Eviction Protects **Health** and Housing Stability

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Millions of families across the United States – disproportionately Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) and immigrants – struggle to maintain adequate housing and live on the brink of eviction and homelessness. The economic fallout of COVID-19 has exacerbated this challenge, and placed one in six families at risk of eviction – three times higher than pre-pandemic rates of eviction.1 As a country, we can solve this problem. The following bills are urgently needed as they are evidence-based solutions for ending evictions and preventing adverse health, education, and financial outcomes throughout one's lifespan.

**Eviction Crisis Act**

Led by Senators Michael Bennet (D-CO) and Rob Portman (R-OH), along with Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Todd Young (R-IN), the Eviction Crisis Act would create new federal resources to help combat eviction. Specifically, this bipartisan bill builds on evidence-based eviction prevention strategies, including:

- Creating a permanent national Emergency Assistance Fund building upon the COVID-related Emergency Rental Assistance programs. This program, funded at $3 billion annually, would enable states to provide robust resources to prevent eviction, including direct financial assistance and housing stability-related services to families with the lowest incomes.

- Requiring the removal of eviction proceedings from tenant screening reports when a court rules in favor of a tenant after a family faces eviction.

- Creating a national database to standardize data, track evictions, and assess the prevalence and impact among various populations and communities.

- Implementing a program to fund and expand the use of landlord-tenant community courts and social services representatives for tenants.

**Further opportunities to prevent eviction and create access to stable, affordable homes**

In addition to legislation that responds to the threat of eviction, Congress must take bold steps to reduce housing instability, racial segregation, and discrimination in housing in order to further promote health. These include policies to adequately fund and provide housing assistance to meet the needs of families – such as the Family Stability and Opportunity Voucher Act – as well as those that expand and preserve affordable and equitably distributed housing across communities – such as the Housing is Infrastructure Act. Furthermore, to undo longstanding harm created and perpetuated by housing policy, we must enact policies that 1) strengthen protections for renters, 2) eliminate discrimination against people using housing vouchers, and 3) expand fair housing laws.

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