



The Honorable Alex Padilla
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Adam Schiff
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

August 20, 2025

Dear Senators Padilla and Schiff:

On behalf of the City of Santa Rosa, I am writing to express the City's support for the "Renewing Opportunity in the American Dream (ROAD) to Housing Act of 2025," with particular attention to the provisions in Title 5 of the Reforming Disaster Recovery Act. These provisions would permanently authorize the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program and include measures intended to ensure that resources are directed to those most affected by disasters, including low-income and marginalized households.

After the 2017 Tubbs Fire destroyed over 5,600 structures, Santa Rosa received more than \$60 million in CDBG-DR funds to rebuild housing, restore infrastructure, and help residents return. The funds assisted with the construction of over 370 new housing units, supporting disaster recovery and assuring long term housing options for residents. Making the program permanent with equity safeguards and faster disbursement should improve disaster recovery in the future.

We also note the bill's approach to balancing assistance for both homeowners and renters, maintaining the requirement that at least 70% of funds benefit low- and moderate-income households, and establishing standards for hazard-prone areas. These reforms align with the City's policies focused on resilience and supporting vulnerable populations.

Although we generally support the ROAD Act, we have concerns regarding Section 504's proposed expansion of the *Moving to Work* (MTW) program. Without completion of an evaluation of the current 100 Expansion MTW public housing authorities, increasing the number of participants may expose tenants to changes such as rent increases, time limits, or adjusted payment standards that could affect housing stability. We recommend Congress delay further MTW expansion until evaluations are concluded and tenant protections are in place.



In summary, the City of Santa Rosa recommends that Congress move forward with the ROAD Act and its disaster recovery provisions, while considering adjustments to the MTW expansion to maintain focus on housing stability and equity within HUD programs. We are available to provide input to ensure this legislation meets the needs of disaster-impacted communities.

Thank you for your consideration and ongoing work on policies related to recovery, resilience, and affordable housing.

Sincerely,

Mark Stapp

Mayor, City of Santa Rosa

*We appreciate your support
on these items!*