

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 19, 2017

The Honorable David Shulkin
Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary Shulkin,

We write you today regarding the recent news that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) intends to deny Hudson River Housing's application for renewal of their Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program (SSVF) grant funding. These funds are essential to providing services for homeless veterans, their families, and veterans at risk of becoming homeless. The VA's decision is misguided and is at odds with its core mission of caring for America's veterans. We request that you immediately reverse your decision and restore Hudson River Housing's SSVF grant funding.

The SSVF grant funds five full-time staffers at Hudson River Housing, two of whom are veterans themselves. Their jobs will be lost without these funds, and they will be unable to provide essential services to homeless Hudson Valley veterans and their families. Through the good work of these folks at Hudson River Housing, Dutchess County has been able to effectively end homelessness among veterans. But Hudson River Housing continues to see dozens of new cases every year. The loss of the SSVF grant means that many veterans with cases in the program could find themselves facing further hardship. Mr. Secretary, this is, simply put, unacceptable.

The men and women of the VA have been entrusted with keeping our nation's promise to our veterans to care for them when they come home. This is especially true of our most vulnerable veterans – those facing homelessness. Denying Hudson River Housing these crucial funds would be breaking that promise. Mr. Secretary, We ask you to do the right thing, reverse this misguided decision and restore these critical funds to the dedicated people of Hudson River Housing.

We look forward to your response, and please do not hesitate to contact our offices should you need additional information.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator Democratic Leader



Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress