July 8, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Democratic Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson and Leader Jeffries:

As members of the Advisory Committee of the Bipartisan Policy Center’s J. Ronald Terwilliger Center for Housing Policy, we are writing to express our strong support for H.R. 3507, the Yes in My Backyard (YIMBY) Act, and urge you to prioritize its consideration by the House of Representatives.

This important legislation, introduced by Reps. Derek Kilmer (D-WA) and Mike Flood (R-NE) and reported unanimously out of the House Financial Services Committee this past May, will encourage local communities to take steps to address our nation’s severe shortage of affordable homes.

The YIMBY Act would require the recipients of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant funding to report on any efforts they may have undertaken within their respective jurisdictions to reform zoning and land use policies to support additional affordable housing supply. Pro-housing efforts could include enacting high-density single-family and multifamily zoning, allowing manufactured homes in areas zoned primarily for single-family residential homes, reducing minimum lot sizes, streamlining or shortening permitting processes and timelines, and eliminating or reducing off-street parking requirements.

Unfortunately, regulatory policies too often delay or prevent the construction of new affordable homes and impede economic development. Through its transparency requirements, the YIMBY Act would encourage local communities to re-examine and reform these policies.

The YIMBY Act is a particularly timely effort, as the demand for affordable housing far exceeds available supply. According to various estimates, the United States has underbuilt housing by millions of homes over the past 15 years. This mismatch between supply and demand has helped fuel today’s high rents and home sale prices, leading to an unprecedented housing affordability crisis.

We stand ready to assist you in advancing the YIMBY Act and other bipartisan policies to help ensure that all Americans have access to a stable and affordable home.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Advisory Committee of the J. Ronald Terwilliger Center for Housing Policy
Ron Terwilliger  
Ed Brady  
Scott Brown  
Henry Cisneros  
Carlos Curbelo  
Shaun Donovan  
Renee Lewis Glover  
Terri Ludwig  
Jeb Mason  
Shekar Narasimhan  
Pamela Hughes Patenaude  
Egbert. L. J. Perry  
Erika Poethig  
Steve Stivers