

Committee on Financial Services
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
Democratic Regional Whip
Democratic Steering & Policy
Committee
www.house.gov/capuano/



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Michael E. Capuano
8th District, Massachusetts

June 26, 2003

7
WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1232 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2108
(202) 225-5111
FAX: (202) 225-9322

DISTRICT OFFICES:
110 FIRST STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02141
(617) 621-6208
FAX: (617) 621-8628

ROXBURY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ROOM 110

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk, City of Cambridge
City Hall
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Ms. Drury:

Thank you for forwarding the Cambridge City Council's resolution expressing opposition to the Administration's proposal to replace the Section 8 housing choice voucher program with a block grant. I appreciate the Council's view on this important issue, and I share their concerns.

As you know, in his fiscal year 2004 budget request, President Bush proposed eliminating the current Section 8 housing choice voucher program and replacing it with a block grant that would be administered by the state governments. Legislation was introduced in the House (H.R. 1843) and the Senate (S. 947) based on the recommendation in the budget.

I believe that there are a number of serious problems with this proposal. First, there is no guarantee in this legislation that the Department of Housing and Community Development (HUD) continue to provide adequate funding to maintain current voucher service levels. Second, many states have little or know housing management experience. The block grants would require some states to create huge new bureaucracies simply to administer the program. Finally, local housing authorities, including the Cambridge Housing Authority, are doing an excellent job using the Section 8 voucher program to help low-income individuals and families find affordable places to live.

You will be pleased to know that the House Committee on Financial Services' Housing Subcommittee has held a series of hearings on the block grant proposal. The large majority of witnesses have testified in opposition to this misguided initiative. It is my hope that our Committee will not take up this controversial legislation this year.

Thank you again for contacting my office.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

2004 JUL - 1 A 11:06
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

5245

Communication #7

A communication was received from Representative Michael E. Capuano, transmitting thanks for the City Council's resolution expressing opposition to the Administration's proposal to replace Section 8 housing choice voucher program with a block grant.

In City Council August 4, 2003

PLACED ON FILE