

Trust

Update on National Housing Trust Fund:

Experts from Harvard's Joint Center for Housing Studies were cited July 3 in a *New York Times* editorial describing the realistic implications on struggling families due to a lack of affordable housing. The cost of shelter in today's economy is blamed for compromising a family's ability to attain basic medical care let alone healthy food and suitable clothing.

In recognition of a situation defined as a "crisis" among Catholic social analysts--including Catholic Charities USA and the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops-- are standing behind the proposed National Housing Trust Fund Bill. HR 2895 is sponsored by Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., and co-sponsored by Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., John McHugh, R-NY, and Jim Ramstad, R-Minn. The act calls for authorization to produce, rehabilitate and preserve 1.5 million housing units over the next 10 years, according to CCUSA. Essentially the bill targets trust fund monies to support low income families by relying on existing Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac mortgage enterprises to facilitate the distribution of funds.

The goal of the proposed act is to designate between \$800 million and \$1 billion to states and communities for pertinent housing projects. The U.S. Treasury and HUD would provide oversight for NHT funds. To sign a petition in support of adequate housing, follow link to: <http://www2398.ssldomain.com/nlihc/template/page.cfm?id=40>