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**National Alliance
of HUD Tenants**

News Advisory

HUD Tenant Leaders Demand Congress Reject Trump's "Death Budget"

Boston, MA, March 20, 2017:

Elected leaders of the national US tenants union today demanded immediate rejection by Congress of President Donald Trump's 2018 partial budget, released on March 16. "Trump's budget will push millions of people from their homes; starve seniors, children and families; and deny health care to 24 million people," said Ed Lucas, of Chicago, President of the National Alliance of HUD Tenants (NAHT). "People will die if these proposals see the light of day. Congress should declare Trump's "Death Budget" dead on arrival."

Trump's budget proposes cuts of 200,000 Section 8 Vouchers next year--10% of the total--and 13% to Public Housing operating budgets, already underfunded at 85% of needs. The cuts are in line with right wing Heritage Foundation proposals, supported by Trump's extremist Budget Director Mick Mulvaney, to phase out federal rental assistance for 12 million low income people over the next 10 years. In remarks to the press on March 16, Mulvaney referred to HUD as "programs that simply cannot justify their existence," and claimed it was "compassionate" to end Meals on Wheels for starving seniors.

Lucas, 58, Marine Corps vet and director of a neighborhood job training center in Chicago added, **"Trump's termination of community development grants and cuts to job training will lay waste to entire cities and rural areas, too. This is no way to "Make America Great Again'."** Trump's budget proposes complete elimination of Community Development, Home and Choice Neighborhood grants to cities; Neighbor-works, Community Action, and AmeriCorps programs that aid low income communities; and Legal Services for the poor, as well as deep cuts to job training, public education, work-study, and rural assistance programs.

Charlotte Delgado, 81, a retired, disabled restaurant manager in Sacramento, California adds, **"Three of my sons died fighting for this country. They did not die to take housing, Meals on Wheels and healthcare away from the American people to hand over \$54 billion to military contractors for a plane that doesn't fly."** Trump's budget proposes to transfer \$54 billion in non-defense programs aiding the poor, the environment and diplomacy, to Pentagon military contractors like Lockheed-Martin. The budget proposes to speed up purchases of Lockheed's controversial F-35 fighter, which has been plagued by failed flight safety tests and cost overruns for many years.

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Trump's budget also proposes deep cuts to public housing while transferring funds to privatized prisons, militarized policy, "border security", and the Wall. **"In Chicago, we've seen the devastation and violence that results from destroying public housing and divesting from our communities, and not providing decent housing and jobs for our youth,"** comments H. Demetrius Bonner, NAHT VP/North, a 58 year old retired railroad worker. **"Children are dying in the streets, from criminal gangs and out of control police. Trump's proposals will increase violence and make our communities less, not more, secure."**

Rachel Williams, 62, an Army widow, minister, and longtime community activist in Beaumont, Texas and NAHT Board VP/South comments that **"Adding millions to the ranks of destitute and homeless people is deeply cruel and un-American. Homeland security begins with a home!"**

Eleanor Walden, 86, a long time civil rights and social justice activist, adds, **"Trump's budget and other actions criminalize immigrants, Moslems and people of color while subsidizing division and hate among the American people. The Republican "Death Budget" is a recipe for austerity, war, inequality, racism, and fear."**

"Congress should instead pass the Peoples Budget to embrace prosperity, peace, unity and hope for our future." The Congressional Progressive Caucus is expected to release its FY 2018 Peoples Budget alternative on March 27.

Founded in 1991, NAHT is the national tenants union representing 2.1 million families in privately-owned, HUD assisted multifamily housing. NAHT's mission is to empower residents to save and improve their homes as affordable housing.