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ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

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July 21, 2021

The Honorable James E. Clyburn
Chairman
Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Since December 2020, Congress has appropriated more than \$46 billion to assist renters who fell behind on payments due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Now more than seven months since President Trump authorized the first tranche of emergency rental assistance (ERA), the bulk of the \$46 billion appropriated by Congress has still not reached renters, and a federal eviction moratorium is set to expire on July 31, 2021. In fact, the most recent data shows only \$1.5 billion was provided to 350,000 households, and millions of renters will soon be exposed to eviction.¹

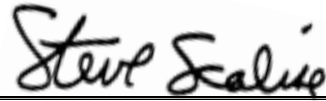
The data indicates the Biden Administration has been ineffective with respect to administering the \$46 billion ERA programs. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, however, has not testified to House committees of jurisdiction to answer questions about key COVID-19 relief programs, despite various statutory mandates that require her to do so.² Secretary Yellen did testify before the Select Subcommittee on July 17, 2020, in her capacity as the former Federal Reserve Chair.

¹ Dep't of Treasury Blog Post, "Emergency Rental Assistance Data Shows Programs Ramping Up, but States and Localities Must Do More to Accelerate Aid" (July 2, 2021), <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/2021-07-02-ERA-Data-Blog-Post-vF.pdf>.

² On May 26, 2021, Secretary Yellen failed to appear at a hearing on the Paycheck Protection Program before the House Committee on Small Business, as required by the bipartisan Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 (Zachary Warmbrodt, *Top House Democrat blasts Yellen for refusing to testify on PPP*, POLITICO, May 26, 2021, <https://www.politico.com/news/2021/05/26/velazquez-blasts-yellen-testify-ppp-490947>). In July 2021, House Financial Services Committee Chairwoman Maxine Waters waived Secretary Yellen's quarterly testimony pursuant to Section 4016 of the CARES Act and refused a request from Committee Republicans to invite Secretary Yellen to a July 20, 2021 hearing on housing (Press Release, *McHenry Calls for Secretary Yellen to Testify on Emergency Rental Assistance Mismanagement*, July 13, 2021, <https://republicans-financialservices.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=408049>).

We would like to hear from her again especially in light of her critical role in administering the floundering ERA program, the imminent expiration of the federal eviction moratorium, and scarce testimony from the Biden Administration about the possibility of an eviction crisis. We respectfully request that you invite Secretary Yellen to testify at the Select Subcommittee's July 27, 2021 hearing on issues related to federal rental assistance and evictions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Scalise". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

Steve J. Scalise
Ranking Member
Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis