



MORTGAGE BANKERS ASSOCIATION

June 13, 2022

The Honorable Maxine Waters
Chairwoman
Committee on Financial Services
U.S. House of Representatives
2129 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick McHenry
Ranking Member
Committee on Financial Services
U.S. House of Representatives
4340 O'Neill House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Chairwoman Waters and Ranking Member McHenry:

On behalf of the Mortgage Bankers Association (MBA)¹, I am writing to express our support for the Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (ANS) to H.R. 4495, the *Downpayment Toward Equity Act*, which is scheduled to be considered for markup by the Committee on Financial Services on June 14, 2022.

MBA commends the Committee for attempting to address barriers to homeownership, especially for minorities and lower-income individuals. Ensuring qualified homebuyers have access to resources to overcome barriers to homeownership, such as challenges to building resources for down payments, is critical to supporting a diverse, fair, and equitable real-estate market. MBA supports this legislation, which provides first-time, first-generation homebuyers with up to 10 percent of the purchase price of an eligible home in financial assistance, including for down payment costs, closing costs, and costs to reduce the rates of interest. MBA especially appreciates the inclusion of language within this bill supporting uniformity in administration of the down payment assistance program as well as granting participating lenders a meaningful safe harbor should borrowers self-attest their first-generation homebuyer status and later be determined ineligible.

MBA previously has supported, and continues to support, robust funding for housing counseling agencies to help qualified homebuyers meet the legislation's housing counseling and education requirements prior to entering into a sales purchase agreement or submitting a loan application. MBA supports increased access to housing counseling as a means to provide a more positive experience for first-time homebuyers unfamiliar with the homeownership process, as well as for other underserved communities.

¹ The Mortgage Bankers Association (MBA) is the national association representing the real estate finance industry, an industry that employs more than 390,000 people in virtually every community in the country. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., the association works to ensure the continued strength of the nation's residential and commercial real estate markets, to expand homeownership, and to extend access to affordable housing to all Americans. MBA promotes fair and ethical lending practices and fosters professional excellence among real estate finance employees through a wide range of educational programs and a variety of publications. Its membership of more than 2,200 companies includes all elements of real estate finance: independent mortgage banks, mortgage brokers, commercial banks, thrifts, REITs, Wall Street conduits, life insurance companies, credit unions, and others in the mortgage lending field. For additional information, visit MBA's website: www.mba.org.

MBA Letter to Chairwoman Waters and Ranking Member McHenry regarding H.R. 4495
June 13, 2022
Page 2

Thank you in advance for your consideration of the views expressed within this letter. We stand ready to work with all Members of the Committee to ensure a robust real estate finance market that is accessible and affordable – and works for all borrowers, renters, lenders, servicers, and other stakeholders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Killmer", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bill Killmer
Senior Vice President
Legislative and Political Affairs

cc: All Members, House Committee on Financial Services