



Responding to your message

1 message

Office of U.S. Senator Raphael Warnock

<do_not_reply@warnock.senate.gov>

To: sisterdina.3@gmail.com

Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 3:03

PM

RAPHAEL WARNOCK
GEORGIA

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1012

Dear Sister Michel-Wiggins,

Thank you for contacting me to voice your concern surrounding homelessness. Hearing from you helps me better represent Georgia.

I believe housing is a human right and, as your Senator, I will do everything in this capacity to ensure that all Georgians have a safe and stable place to call home. For Georgians who struggle with housing insecurity, the pandemic was exceptionally devastating and forced into homelessness numerous families who were on the verge. To make matters worse, Georgians struggling to search for affordable housing were left with fewer housing options due to constraints borne from the pandemic.

Through the bipartisan Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 and the American Rescue Plan Act, Congress stepped in to provide states and localities with Emergency Rental Assistance Program funding to keep Georgians housed during the darkest days of the pandemic. This program was managed by state and local governments to best serve those in need. On October 18, 2022, however, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, without public notice, ceased accepting new applications. I am deeply disappointed by how the Georgia Department of Community Affairs conducted this process, and my office is currently investigating why and how this decision was made.

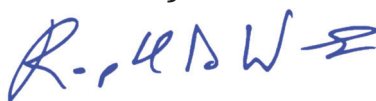
In addition to this, I have made steps at the federal level to combat homelessness. For example, I secured \$18 million in emergency housing

vouchers from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to help secure housing for approximately 1,300 housing-insecure families in Georgia. Additionally, I have advocated to Congressional Leadership for strong federal funding for the HOME Tenant-Based Rental Assistance program, the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS program, the HUD-VASH Program, the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants program, and the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, among other federal housing initiatives. Further, as we have seen rents skyrocket across Georgia, I have introduced the *Rent Relief Act of 2022*, which would lower housing costs for hardworking families by providing a tax cut to folks paying over 30% of their income on rent under certain income thresholds.

Now more than ever, Congress must support lasting solutions and fully fund programs that work to keep Georgians in stable housing. Please know as your Senator and as a member of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, I will continue to look and support solutions that make housing more affordable and keep people in safe and stable housing.

Thank you again for contacting me. Please do not hesitate to do so again if I may be of assistance to you or your family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Warnock" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Reverend Raphael Warnock
United States Senator