

Reply from Senator Mark Kelly

From: Senator Mark Kelly (nocontact@kelly.senate.gov)

To: starroad@aol.com

Date: Thursday, July 27, 2023 at 08:40 AM MST

SENATOR MARK KELLY
ARIZONA

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0309

Dear Ms. Rodney,

Thank you for contacting me about efforts to help unhoused and displaced Americans. As a former Navy pilot, combat veteran and retired NASA astronaut, it is an honor to continue my service to our country representing Arizona in the United States Senate. I appreciate you taking the time to share your thoughts on the issues facing our state and our country. Hearing from Arizonans helps me better serve our state, and I hope you will continue to share your perspective and suggestions.

Far too many Arizonans are at risk of or currently experiencing homelessness. The National Homelessness Law Center currently estimates that each year between 2.5 and 3.5 million Americans sleep in shelters, transitional housing, or public places, and an additional 7.4 million have lost their own homes and are staying with others out of economic necessity. To make matters worse, the COVID-19 pandemic devastated our economy and caused countless Americans to lose their livelihoods, further threatening housing security for millions more. As your senator, I am committed to finding solutions that address the homelessness crisis and help Arizonans in need.

The Stewart B. McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1987 authorizes several programs across federal agencies to assist individuals experiencing homelessness. In accordance with this law, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) administers homeless assistance programs, including the Continuum of Care Program, which provides funding for nonprofit providers and state and local governments to provide transitional or permanent housing, rental assistance, supportive services, and re-housing services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness. On March 14, 2022, HUD announced \$52.3 million dollars for Arizona's Continuum of Care Programs, to provide funding for 85 homelessness programs in the area.

On March 6, 2021, the Senate passed the American Rescue Plan Act, H.R. 1319, to address the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy, public health, state and local governments, individuals, and businesses. This bill included \$5 billion for homelessness assistance and supportive services, \$5 billion for emergency housing vouchers, \$21.6 billion for emergency rental assistance, \$750 million for housing assistance for tribal nations, and \$100 million for housing counseling services to populations facing housing instability. I voted for H.R.1319, which was signed into law on March 11, 2021, and I continue to understand the importance of housing assistance to keeping Arizonans in their homes, especially in a time of economic crisis.

In addition to the \$800 million that was provided through the American Rescue Plan to support comprehensive services for students experiencing homelessness, I cosponsored S. 220, the Emergency Family Stabilization Act. This bill would create a new grant program within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) for organizations serving vulnerable children, youth and families to provide

emergency relief to those experiencing homelessness. Grant recipients may use these funds for personal protective equipment (PPE) and other supplies to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, as well as payments for security deposits and other housing supports. S. 220 was referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions for consideration during the 117th Congress, but it did not receive a vote on the Senate floor.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, H.R. 2617, which funded the federal government for fiscal year 2023, passed the Senate with my support on December 22, 2022. This bill provided \$3.6 billion for homeless assistance grants, including \$3.1 billion for the Continuum of Care program and \$290 million for the Emergency Solutions Grant program. The bill also included \$2.7 billion for veterans homelessness programs and \$52 million for survivors of domestic violence. H.R. 2617 was signed into law on December 29, 2022.

More must be done to ensure that all Arizonans have an affordable and safe place to live. As Arizona's senator, I am committed to working with both Republicans and Democrats in the United States Senate to continue efforts that encourage economic development, address the housing crisis, and help those in need during these unprecedented times.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts on this issue, and I hope you will continue to contact my office with any future comments or questions. I'm committed to being transparent and accountable with all Arizonans, which is why I release my official Senate schedule at kelly.senate.gov. There you can also [sign up for my newsletter](#), receive assistance with a federal agency and learn more about my work as Arizona's senator.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mark Kelly
United States Senator

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ARIZONA

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WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0309

Dear Ms. Rodney,

Thank you for taking the time to contact my office. It is an honor to continue my service to our country and represent Arizona in the United States Senate, and I appreciate your willingness to share your thoughts with me. Please know that your correspondence has been received, and my team and I will work to respond to your policy questions in greater detail. Due to the high volume of correspondence that we receive, our response times may vary.

If you require assistance dealing with a federal agency, please email casework@kelly.senate.gov or call my office at 602-671-7901. My casework team will be happy to provide further assistance.

Thank you again for contacting me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" and "K".

Mark Kelly
United States Senator