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THE SENATE  
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**SENATOR TODD KAMINSKY**  
9TH SENATE DISTRICT

**RANKING MINORITY MEMBER**  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

**COMMITTEES:**

ALCOHOLISM & DRUG ABUSE  
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MILITARY AFFAIRS  
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, INCUBATION AND  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP SELECT COMMITTEE

December 1, 2017

Dr. Ben Carson  
Secretary of Housing and Urban Development  
451 7th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20410


Dear Mr. Secretary,

We are writing to request that you reinstate the extension of the Interim Mortgage Assistance (IMA) program to assist those still rebuilding from superstorm Sandy. In September, your department revoked the waiver that extended IMA's assistance to 36 months, ceasing payments after December 31. This sudden change will cause undue financial hardship for our constituents who based their construction timeline on the 36-month IMA aid they were originally granted.

Five years after Sandy, families throughout our districts are working hard to return to their homes. In February 2016, your department provided New York State a waiver to extend the IMA program from 20 months of aid to 36 months. This gave homeowners time to obtain permits, hire contractors, and rebuild their homes. Despite their tireless efforts, many are still working to finish construction. Many families in our districts are on schedule to return home in the coming months, but their construction and payment abilities are based on a 36-month timeline. The abrupt end of the extension to the IMA program will leave hundreds of families without the financial means to pay their mortgage and find a suitable place to live while their homes are being completed. The extension must be reinstated so those who have planned their return home based on a 36-month timeline will be able to do so.

Our constituents have been struggling to recover from superstorm Sandy for more than five years. For hundreds of families in our districts, the unexpected end of the extension will compound their anxieties and frustrations, and create chaos or worse for these long-suffering victims. Please restore the 36 months of aid that hundreds were assured. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Todd Kaminsky  
Senator, 9th District

  
Kathleen Rice  
Congresswoman, 4th District

