

News  
From \_\_\_\_\_

CONGRESSMAN

# Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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RAHALL LAUDS HOUSING, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION ACT

WASHINGTON, DC - U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.) today voted in favor of an amendment which reduces the tenant rent contribution for elderly individuals living in federally-assisted housing and authorizes funds for the Community Development Block and Urban Development Action Grant Programs.

The administration has proposed eliminating the UDAG program, assistance for the elderly and handicapped housing, but Rahall believes today's vote is an indication that such programs are needed throughout the country.

"The \$3 billion for the Community Development Block Grant Program and the \$225 million set aside for Urban Development Action Grants are needed in many West Virginia localities," Rahall said. "Without these grants many people would be homeless."

The reduction of the percentage from 30 to 25 percent of one's adjusted income will go a long way toward improving the lives of needy seniors. At a 30 percent rent contribution, many elderly citizens living in public housing were being forced to move out because they could not afford the rent.

"This bill is vital for our housing and community development programs in view of the fact that the Administration has consistently tried to slash funding for these programs," Rahall said. "This year, the Administration is seeking to eliminate most of the HUD housing programs and to terminate all of the Farmers' Home Administration rural housing programs."

The bill will be of aid to West Virginia and according to Rahall it places some responsibility on the state government.

"The measure provides for the designation of 100 enterprise zones," Rahall said. "And it requires as a condition of eligibility that state or local governments take certain actions or that private entities make special commitments."

The bill passed the House by a 285-120 margin.