The Benefits of Investing in the Housing Market in Pennsylvania

Economy
We believe that businesses that invest in our communities should have the support of housing policies that help them recruit and retain a qualified workforce.

• Investing in the housing market creates JOBS. Each $1 million invested in the rehabilitation of older homes results in nearly 20 full-time jobs per year in areas such as construction, manufacturing, retail, financial, and various other professional services.¹

• Providing better housing options will attract new businesses to communities.²

• A balanced housing market provides an economic stimulus to neighborhoods, bringing money, jobs and consumers into a community.³

• Each dollar the state invests in the housing market returns from $1.62 to $2.28 to the state’s economy.⁴

Children
We believe that no child should be homeless.

• In Pennsylvania alone, almost 20,000 children are homeless.⁵

• Moving to a clean, stable home improves children’s health and physical well-being.⁶

• Children in stable housing situations do significantly better in school than children who move three or more times during the school year.⁷

• A stable housing environment can help reduce adolescent violence and levels of drug use.⁸

Senior Citizens
We believe that seniors should be able to live with dignity as part of the community.

• The number of elderly people who are homeless is increasing.⁹

• Having safe and decent housing has a direct impact on levels of life expectancy.¹⁰

• Pennsylvania ranks fourth among all states in the number of elderly residents.¹¹

⁴ Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania. (2009), Rebuilding Pennsylvania’s Housing Market.
⁵ Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program 2011-12 State Evaluation Report February 2013; http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/homeless_children%27s_ initiative_project/7491
⁷ Kids Mobility Project, Minneapolis, 1995
¹¹ 2010 US Census.
Victims of Domestic Violence

We believe that a home should provide security.

- Housing is essential for obtaining and sustaining employment and economic independence, and for maintaining custody of children.\footnote{National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Domestic Violence Information Center: Housing Retrieved at http://www.pcadv.org/Domestic-Violence-Information-Center/Housing/}

Individuals with Disabilities

We believe that people with disabilities should be able to live with dignity as part of the community.

- Pennsylvanians living on SSI are faced with the dual problem of the lack of affordable homes and the lack of accessible homes.\footnote{Cooper et al. (2011) Priced Out in 2010: The Housing Crisis for People with Disabilities. Technical Assistance Collaborative, Inc. Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities, Housing Task Force.}
- The average rent for a one-bedroom apartment in Pennsylvania costs the entire monthly income of an individual receiving only SSI income.\footnote{PA Housing Finance Agency}
- Individuals with disabilities and low incomes sometimes enter or are unable to leave nursing homes because of the lack of affordable homes.

Cost Savings

We believe that if you work hard and play by the rules, you should be able to afford a decent place to live.

- A balanced housing market will save the Commonwealth money by decreasing shelter use, medical costs, and incarceration rates.\footnote{Callahan D.P., Metraux, S., & Hadley, T. (2002). Public service reductions associated with placement of homeless persons with severe mental illness in supportive housing. Housing Policy Debate, 13 (1). Retrieved from http://repository.upenn.edu/spp_papers/65/}
- Rental assistance is four times less expensive than a nursing home, and two times less costly than a nursing home plus community based services.\footnote{Wright et al. (2008) Association of prenatal and childhood blood lead concentrations with criminal arrests in early adulthood. PLOS Medicine.}
- Researchers have found a link between elevated blood lead levels in childhood - as is often found in substandard housing - with higher levels of violent criminal behavioral as a young adult.\footnote{Lalwani, N. (2012, July 3). Pa. Senate sends corrections bill to Corbett. Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Retrieved from http://www.post-gazette.com/stories/local/state/pa-senate-sends-corrections-bill-to-corbett-642099/}