



City of North Port

City Commission

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Barbara Langdon, Mayor
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July 25, 2023

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Democratic Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker McCarthy, Majority Leader Schumer, Leader Jeffries, and Leader McConnell:

On behalf of the City of North Port, I am honored to write in strong support of S.1514 and H.R.3170, the Homes for Every Local Protector, Educator, and Responder (HELPER) Act, introduced by U.S. Senators Marco Rubio (R-FL), John Ossoff (D-GA), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Raphael Warnock (D-GA), Robert Menendez (D-NJ), Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV), and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) and U.S. Representatives John Rutherford (R-FL) and Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ).

The HELPER Act would create a home loan program within the Federal Housing Administration to help our law enforcement officers, firefighters, EMTs, paramedics, and preK-12 teachers (“first responders”) by making homeownership more affordable. Too often, our civil servants struggle to afford their first home. Because of this, we are writing in support of the HELPER Act, which would help our civil servants access the housing they need to serve their communities.

First responders dedicate their lives to protecting and serving their fellow Americans. The COVID-19 pandemic has only made clearer the ongoing challenges that these brave first responders face. It is time we honor them for their service. To that end, the HELPER Act program will function similarly to the home loan program managed by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Managed by the Federal Housing Administration, it will allow law enforcement officers, fire fighters, EMTs, paramedics, and preK-12 teachers to obtain a low-interest, fully insured home loan with no down payment and no monthly mortgage insurance costs for a first-time home purchase.

Our nation’s first responders have demonstrated their unwavering commitment to their communities. Even amidst a deadly pandemic, these heroes have served without hesitation. We believe they have earned access to affordable housing so that they can provide for their families and continue to serve

their communities. We hope you will join the City of North Port in support of the HELPER Act, and we look forward to working with you on this important matter.

Sincerely,

The City of North Port

Barbara Langdon
Mayor

cc: North Port City Commission
A. Jerome Fletcher II, ICMA-CM, MPA, City Manager
Julie Bellia, Assistant City Manager
Jason Yarborough, ICMA-CM, Assistant City Manager