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PRESS RELEASE

Governor Malloy, Connecticut Congressional Delegates To Hold Press Conference Calling for Greater Federal Investment in Affordable Housing

**July 28, 2017, 12:00 p.m.
4-40 Vine Street Apartments
(Corner of Albany Avenue and Vine Street)
Hartford, CT**

[Hartford, Connecticut] – Advocates, elected officials, and concerned citizens from across Connecticut will join together as part of the national *Our Homes, Our Voices* Week of Action from July 22-29 by attending a press conference on Friday, July 28th to focus attention to the affordable housing crisis in our state and across the country and drastic cuts to the HUD and USDA affordable housing budgets proposed by President and Congress.

Connecticut Housing Coalition is coordinating this Call for Action locally and will be joined by the following policymakers at this press event:

- Governor Malloy (attendance confirmed),
- Connecticut Congressional Delegation (invited),
- Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin, and
- Resident who receives Section 8 housing voucher for 4-40 Vine Street.

The public and press are invited to attend.

In Connecticut and across the nation, far too many families– including low income seniors, people with disabilities, veterans, and families with children – struggle to keep a roof over their heads or are experiencing homelessness. More families are renting their homes than ever before, and our nation’s

investments in affordable housing have not kept pace. As a result, rents are increasing everywhere. But, because of underfunding, three out of every four families in need of housing assistance are turned away. Click [here](#) for state data from the 2017 Out of Reach report published by the National Low Income Housing Coalition; Connecticut data begin on page 45.

Since 2011, the state has created, rehabilitated, and preserved 9,636 affordable housing units. An additional 3,235 affordable units are under construction, and funding commitments are in place to create approximately 5,200 more units. The state's investment in affordable housing totals about \$1 billion dollars – a testament to the high level of commitment that is being made to prevent and end homelessness, while ensuring every resident has a place to call home. This investment in the housing industry has spurred another \$2.5 billion in direct economic activity across the state.

In addition to state funding, Connecticut relies on federal spending on affordable housing from HUD and USDA. Federal affordable housing programs have lifted millions of families out of poverty. Without this combined investment, many more families would be homeless, living in substandard or overcrowded conditions, or struggling to meet other basic needs.

Despite their proven track record, however, HUD and USDA affordable housing programs have been chronically underfunded. **Today, of the families who qualify for federal housing assistance, only a quarter will get the help that they need.**

President Trump's budget proposes to further slash federal investments in affordable housing by \$7.4 billion or 15% - a move that could increase homelessness and housing poverty in our community. The House Appropriations subcommittee that oversees funding levels for affordable housing and community development at HUD has proposed a budget that significantly underfunds federal investments that serve low-income people and communities.

The draft House bill provides at least \$1.5 billion less than what is needed to **maintain** program levels and cover inflationary costs to ensure that every household currently receiving housing assistance can remain in their homes. Advocates estimate that this proposal eliminates more than 140,000 housing vouchers that families are expected to use next year. Without housing assistance, families are at immediate risk of eviction and, in worst cases, homelessness.

Instead of reducing our nation's investments in affordable housing, we need to make a bold and sustained commitment to ensure that everyone has a safe, accessible and affordable home. Because when we invest in affordable homes, we invest in people, our communities, and America as a whole – from increased employment and economic mobility to improved health and better education.

This press event will take place at 4-40 Vine Street, owned and operated by non-profit developers Sheldon Oak Central. The apartments are located at the corner of Vine Street and Albany Avenue in Hartford.

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The Connecticut Housing Coalition represents the broad, vibrant network of community-based affordable housing activity across the state. CHC's more than 250 member organizations include

nonprofit developers, human service agencies, resident associations, and diverse other housing practitioners and advocates. Founded in 1981, the Coalition works to expand housing opportunity and to increase the quantity and quality of affordable housing in Connecticut.

Sheldon Oak, founded in 1969, is a Hartford-based not-for-profit, tax-exempt urban development corporation. Its mission is to develop, manage, and produce affordable housing for at-risk populations. The organization is committed to the sustainability of its projects through a network of community centers and the development of commercial real estate necessary for community economic growth. Sheldon Oak is proud to have completed over 700 units of decent, community-supported development in the City of Hartford and surrounding communities.