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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COALITION UNITES TO URGE PA LEGISLATURE TO ACT ON HOUSING REFORM

HARRISBURG, Pa. — A diverse coalition of local and statewide organizations representing housing advocates, community planners, affordable housing providers, builders, transportation advocates, business leaders, and community stakeholders have joined forces to urge the Pennsylvania legislature to address the Commonwealth's shortage of workforce and attainable housing.

The coalition calls on lawmakers to pass legislation aimed at increasing housing choices and removing barriers to affordable and accessible housing statewide. Proposed legislation should address critical issues facing residents, builders, and communities, while fostering economic growth and opportunity by:

- **Restoring Missing Middle Housing Choices:** Re-legalization of duplexes, triplexes, and fourplexes in municipalities across the Commonwealth to meet the needs of residents at various income levels.
- **Bringing Back Starter Homes:** Allow the construction and sale of houses on more modest plots of land to unlock opportunities for first-time homebuyers and individuals seeking affordable housing options.
- **Promoting Housing Proximity to Jobs:** Legalizing apartments and mixed-use buildings in commercial areas to facilitate access to housing near job centers to reduce commuting burdens while fostering vibrant, walkable communities.
- **Legalizing Accessory Dwellings:** Legalization of accessory dwellings, commonly known as “granny flats,” and streamlining processes for homeowners to build and rent them out in their backyards to increase housing options and provide supplemental income for homeowners.
- **Removing Housing Veto Points:** Streamlining approval processes to ensure timely and cost-effective development of new homes, accelerating housing production to address the growing demand for affordable housing.

Many coalition members rarely see eye-to-eye. Nonprofit housing providers, labor unions, for-profit builders, social justice organizations, environmentalists, planning professionals, and free market activists are more often on opposite sides of issues before the legislature. The need for more abundant and affordable housing has brought them together.

“Across Pennsylvania, too many of our neighbors struggle to find homes they can afford,” said Phyllis Chamberlain, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Housing Alliance. “Our working families, seniors who have built our communities, and young people just starting out can no longer afford to stay in their communities due to rising rent and home prices. The State Legislature must legalize building more homes in communities across our state so that we all have a safe place to call home.”

That these strange bedfellows are coming together now underscores the urgency of enacting meaningful housing reforms to address Pennsylvania's housing crisis and ensure that all residents have access to safe, affordable, and quality housing options.

"The biggest problem we have in Pennsylvania is finding properties where you can bring the house to completion and still have it at an affordable price," said Dan Durden, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Builders Association. "If more choices are available besides single-family housing, now you can build homes at an affordable rate and sell them at an affordable rate, and more of them."

“As planners, we work to help create complete communities with opportunities for everyone to access abundant and affordable homes, jobs and transportation, as well as necessities like schools, grocery stores, and parks,” said Leah Eppinger, AICP, President of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association. “The State Legislature should take action to enable diversity and opportunity in our communities and create a strong incentive for cities to innovate.”

The coalition will work collaboratively with policymakers, community leaders, and stakeholders to advance housing solutions that promote equity, opportunity, and prosperity for all Pennsylvanians. Multiple pro-housing bills have been introduced by members of both parties in recent months, with more expected in the coming weeks. The coalition looks forward to working with legislators in support of many of these policies this session.

The [Pennsylvania Housing Choices Coalition](#) is an advocacy coalition of organizations from across the Commonwealth convened by 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania. The coalition is united in supporting common-sense bipartisan statewide legislation that will bring about more attainable housing choices for all Pennsylvanians.

Full Coalition List:

Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania • American Planning Association of Pennsylvania • Pennsylvania Builders Association • Coalition for Supportive Housing • Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry • Pennsylvania Manufactured Housing Association • Habitat for Humanity of Philadelphia • Philadelphia Association of Community Development Corporations (PACDC) • Lancaster-Lebanon Habitat for Humanity • Pennsylvania Apartment Association • Regional Housing Legal Services • 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania • 5th Square • Mobilify SW PA • Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group (PCRG) • @Home in Adams County • Americans for Prosperity Pennsylvania • Building Industry Association of Philadelphia • The Chamber of Commerce of Greater Philadelphia • South Central Community Action Programs • Pro-Housing Pittsburgh • The Montco 30% Project • Square Roots Collective • Old City District • Module Housing • Lawrenceville United • Stone Sherrick • Bucks Mont Collaborative • Jumpstart Philly • Philly Office Retail • Partnership for Better Health • Servants, Inc. • HDC MidAtlantic • SEDA-Council of Governments

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