



October 2, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Democratic Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Majority Leader Thune, Leader Jeffries, and Leader Schumer:

I am honored to write in strong support of the Homes for Every Local Protector, Educator, and Responder (HELPER) Act. H.R.2904 and S.978 were introduced in March of 2025 as a bipartisan, bicameral bill, with endorsements from dozens of national, state, and local organizations and elected officials.

The HELPER Act would establish a home loan program within the Federal Housing Administration to make homeownership more affordable for law enforcement officers, firefighters, EMTs, paramedics, and PreK-12 teachers – our nation's first responders. Too often, these individuals struggle to afford their first home despite their dedication and honorable service to our communities.

First responders dedicate their lives to protecting and serving others. They frequently put their lives on the line to ensure their fellow Americans' safety and well-being. It is time to recognize their sacrifice by giving them the support they deserve. Under the Federal Housing Administration, this program would allow first responders to obtain low-interest, fully insured home loans with no down payment and no monthly mortgage insurance costs for a first-time home purchase.

Our nation's first responders have shown unwavering commitment to their communities. They serve selflessly, often under dangerous and challenging conditions. We honor their dedication by providing access to affordable housing, enabling them to care for their families while continuing to serve their communities.

We hope you will join me in supporting the HELPER Act, and we look forward to working with you on this vital issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Fleming", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Dennis Fleming
Mayor
City of Valdez, Alaska

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