

August 22, 2025

The Honorable Gregory Meeks U.S. House of Representatives 2310 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Meeks:

On behalf of the Mortgage Bankers Association (MBA)¹, I am writing to thank you for your efforts to advance solutions that help make housing more accessible and affordable for American borrowers and families. Our association appreciates your continued commitment to addressing these challenges, as demonstrated by your recent introduction of the *Mortgage Insurance Freedom Act*.

MBA supports the intent of this bill, as introduced, and shares your belief that borrowers applying for Federal Housing Administration (FHA)-insured mortgages, particularly first-time and low- to moderate-income homebuyers, should be presented with financing options comparable to those within the conventional mortgage market space (available via the housing Government Sponsored Enterprises ("GSEs"), Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac). Consequently, our members have traditionally supported efforts to bring the FHA program into greater parity with the GSEs and believe that eliminating FHA's "life-of-loan" requirement would be a meaningful step to improve affordability and sustainable access to homeownership.

That said, MBA believes that HUD and FHA already hold appropriate administrative authority to make the policy changes within your bill – and continues to encourage FHA to move forward with a careful, data-driven review of the "life of loan" issue. Such an evaluation would ensure that any adjustments ultimately made will maintain the essential integrity of the FHA single-family program.

¹ The Mortgage Bankers Association (MBA) is the national association representing the real estate finance industry, an industry that employs more than 275,000 people in virtually every community in the country. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., the association works to ensure the continued strength of the nation's residential and commercial real estate markets, to expand homeownership, and to extend access to affordable housing to all Americans. MBA promotes fair and ethical lending practices and fosters professional excellence among real estate finance employees through a wide range of educational programs and a variety of publications. Its membership of more than 2,000 companies includes all elements of real estate finance: independent mortgage banks, mortgage brokers, commercial banks, thrifts, REITs, Wall Street conduits, life insurance companies, credit unions, and others in the mortgage lending field. For additional information, visit MBA's website: www.mba.org.

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As always, MBA welcomes the opportunity to continue working with your office – and HUD – to explore ways to improve affordable access to homeownership while concurrently preserving and protecting FHA's single-family Mutual Mortgage Insurance Fund.

Thank you again for your introduction of this important proposal. Please consider MBA a partner in your efforts to help create a more efficient, affordable, and sustainable FHA program for borrowers throughout the country.

Sincerely,

Bill Killmer

Senior Vice President

Legislative & Political Affairs