

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **AFGE National Council 222: HUD Under Siege – A Legacy of Waste Exposed**

The American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) National Council 222, representing 5300 dedicated HUD employees, stands as a critical line of defense against reckless dismantling of essential public services. We are not new to this fight. For over a year, AFGE National Council 222 has been working with whistleblowers to expose fraud, waste, and abuse within HUD, even before the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), led by Elon Musk, began its work.

**Our commitment to American taxpayers is clear: we demand accountability.** We have repeatedly raised alarms with a bipartisan group of influential figures – including Chairman James Comer, Senator Joni Ernst, Chair Brian Schatz, Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, Speaker Mike Johnson, Senator Chuck Schumer, Senator John Thune, DC Mayor Muriel Bowser, General Counsel Betsy Cavendish, Beverly L. Perry, Hampton Dellinger, Johana R. Ayers, Chairman Gary Peters, Chairman Tom Cole, Chairwoman Patty Murray, Eleanor Holmes Norton, and Matthew M. Graves – urging them to address the systemic failures plaguing HUD. We have directly engaged with HUD leadership, including Senior Advisor Scott Langmack and the newly appointed HUD Secretary Turner, to ensure these issues are addressed at the highest levels.

**Now, HUD employees face the imminent threat of a 50% staff reduction.** This is not about efficiency; it's about gutting a vital agency that provides safe and affordable housing to millions of Americans. This is an assault on dedicated public servants – our neighbors, friends, and community members, Democrats and Republicans alike – who are being scapegoated for decades of mismanagement by HUD Senior Executives. An example of that is the HUD PIH SES failures of HUD's IT infrastructure, epitomizing the agency's dysfunction at the SES level, not at the bargaining unit employee level. The NSPIRE app, for example, is a \$40 million project that is woefully inadequate, hindering HUD's ability to perform mandated inspections.

As Antonio Gaines, president of AFGE National Council 222, stated, frontline employees often "take the blame for a slow bureaucracy" despite being "hamstrung by decisions made by Senior Executives and political appointees." Moreover, these cuts will disproportionately affect probationary employees, many of whom represent varying technical backgrounds and bring new skills needed to HUD. Their termination disrupts career trajectories and undermines HUD's mission in fostering a dynamic workforce.

The drastic reduction of 50% of staff, as feared by a majority of HUD employees, is not just a number; it represents a significant loss of expertise and institutional knowledge. The agency's capacity to manage rental assistance, provide funding to house homeless individuals, help low to moderate income families buy homes, and build and repair affordable housing will be severely undermined, making it tough to carry out the agencies' mission.

**The "fork in the road" email is a blatant attempt to coerce employees into silence.** Our surveys reveal the devastating impact of these tactics, with 80% of respondents reporting very high stress levels. Despite these tactics, we will not be intimidated. National Council 222 is committed to supporting our members during this crisis.

[AFGE National Council 222 Workplace Impact Survey Results February 2025](#)

The Council will continue to monitor the situation closely, advocating for solutions that protect federal employees as outlined in the collective bargaining agreement. We invite media inquiries to further expose these critical issues.

**We will not waver in our fight for the protection of federal employees.**

For further inquiries, please contact AFGE National Council 222