



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Todd Kaminsky

Senator Kaminsky Requests HUD Reinstate IMA Extension Program

TODD KAMINSKY December 12, 2017

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Dr. Ben Carson
Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street SW
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Mr. Secretary,

We are writing to request that you reinstate the extension of the Interim Mortgage Assistance (IMA) program to assist those still rebuilding from superstorm Sandy. In September, your department revoked the waiver that extended IMA's assistance to 36 months, ceasing payments after December 31. This sudden change will cause undue financial hardship for our constituents who based their construction timeline on the 36-month IMA aid they were originally granted.

Five years after Sandy, families throughout our districts are working hard to return to their homes. In February 2016, your department provided New York State a waiver to extend the IMA program from 20 months of aid to 36 months. This gave homeowners time to obtain permits, hire contractors, and rebuild their homes. Despite their tireless efforts, many are still working to finish construction. Many families in our districts are on schedule to return home in the coming months, but their construction and payment abilities are based on a 36-month timeline. The abrupt end of the extension to the IMA program will leave hundreds of families without the financial means to pay their mortgage and find a suitable place to live while their homes are being completed. The extension must be