



# State of Wisconsin Council on Physical Disabilities

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November 19, 2004

Senator Russ Feingold  
506 Hart SOB  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feingold:

The Wisconsin Council on Physical Disabilities is writing to urge your immediate and continued support for the federal Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program. Current HUD proposals, if enacted into law, would dismantle this highly successful federal housing program and cut \$1.6 billion from its budget. These proposals would cause irreparable harm to 440,000 people with disabilities who currently have vouchers, and to millions more who need vouchers to live in the community.

In Wisconsin, 78,039 persons who are disabled and/or blind received federally administered Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments in December 2002. A total of 55,662 non-elderly people with disabilities between 18 and 64 currently receive federal SSI benefits and have incomes equal to only 18 percent of the median income. Section 8 Housing Choice vouchers are now virtually the only federal resource available to help people with disabilities leave institutional settings and live in the community—a far more economical solution for most people.

These facts indicate a need for more of these critical vouchers, rather than a cut in the program's funding. People with disabilities and other vulnerable low-income groups should not have to bear the burden of federal cuts. We urge your support for this extremely important program.

Sincerely,

JorJan Borlin  
Chairperson