

August 13, 2021

Mr. Solomon J. Greene  
Assistant Secretary Designate  
Housing and Urban Development  
451 7th St SW  
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Mr. Greene:

Thank you for testifying before the United States Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs on August 5, 2021, at the nominations hearing.

To complete the hearing record, we would appreciate your answers to the enclosed questions by August 13, 2021. When formatting your response, please repeat the question, then your answer, single spacing both question and answer. Please do not use all capitals.

Send your reply to Mr. Cameron Ricker, the Committee's Chief Clerk. He will transmit copies to the appropriate offices, including the Committee's publications office. Due to current procedures regarding Senate mail, it is recommended that you send replies via e-mail in a Microsoft Word or PDF attachment to [Cameron\\_Ricker@banking.senate.gov](mailto:Cameron_Ricker@banking.senate.gov).

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Mr. Ricker at (202) 224-5587.

Sincerely,

Sherrod Brown  
Chairman

SB/cr

**Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs  
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**Questions for Mr. Solomon J. Greene, Assistant Secretary Designate, Housing and Urban Development, from Chairman Sherrod Brown:**

- 1) Where have you excelled in past positions in attracting, hiring, and promoting people of color in positions in your organization/s? Where might there be room for improvement?

**In my senior leadership positions within several organizations, including at the Urban Institute, I have contributed to the development and execution of robust diversity, equity and inclusion plans, including identifying and incorporating best practices to improve recruiting, hiring and promotion of people of color. I have participated in and led several hiring committees for staff at all levels – from entry level to the most senior hires within the organization – and in each, I have successfully recruited diverse staff, including highly qualified people of color. Beyond recruiting and hiring, I have contributed to and led efforts to support diverse staff in their professional growth, including retention, promotion and meeting professional development goals.**

**I believe that HUD needs to attract, hire, retain, and grow talented staff who represent the diversity of our nation and who bring the diverse perspectives and lived experiences that are so essential to the work that HUD does. If I am confirmed, I will ensure that open positions are well-publicized through all the appropriate channels and would support the growth of a more diverse team.**

- 2) What specific measures will you use to evaluate the success of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in understanding and addressing the needs of Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC)? And, will you work with the Secretary and senior officials to keep Congress apprised, as appropriate, on the progress being made on these measures?

**If confirmed, I look forward to working with the Secretary, senior officials within HUD and across agencies, Congress and a broad range of stakeholders to advance HUD's efforts to understand and meet the housing and community development needs of BIPOC individuals, families and communities. In the role of Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research, I would advance these efforts in three principal ways, if confirmed. First, I would look for opportunities to better understand the housing and community development needs in BIPOC communities through community-engaged research methods, rigorous research using HUD administrative data, and collection and analysis of data disaggregated by race and place. Second, I would ensure that the Secretary and program offices are equipped with the best available evidence, data and research to support policy and program design and implementation that addresses needs in BIPOC communities. Third, I would work with the Secretary, Deputy Secretary, and program offices to advance the goals and objectives of the President's "Executive Order on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal**

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**Government” by developing new structures and metrics for assessing and advancing equitable outcomes in HUD programs.**

**I commit to keeping all senior officials and Congress apprised on the development of these measures and progress being made in achieving better outcomes. I would welcome an ongoing and data-driven conversation on HUD’s progress towards achieving greater racial equity in housing and neighborhoods.**

- 3) What is your plan for creating an inclusive working environment for employees within your office?

**I am fully committed to establishing a diverse workforce at HUD and within the Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R). If confirmed, I would review HUD’s current Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Strategic plan and work with the Secretary and HUD’s Office of Diversity and Inclusion to provide research, leadership and data-driven insights to help improve and implement HUD’s plan. If confirmed, I would support the Secretary, Deputy Secretary, HUD’s Office of Diversity and Inclusion, HUD’s Office of Departmental Equal Employment Opportunity and the Office of Administration to advance the Secretary’s stated priorities for creating an inclusive working environment across the Department. These include promoting equal opportunity and identifying and eliminating any discriminatory practices and policies; providing systematic training of HUD employees; monitoring employment policies for any discriminatory impact; and ensuring that senior leadership are evaluated in terms of their commitments to diversity, equity, and inclusion.**

**If confirmed, I would also make it a priority to build and maintain an inclusive working environment in PD&R. This would start with bolstering staff morale and dedication to DEI efforts. I would begin immediately by working with the senior leadership team and would continue throughout my tenure as I evaluate what is currently in place and work with HUD and PD&R staff to strengthen the efforts. If confirmed, I would ensure diverse voices are a part of the decision-making process in PD&R with respect to office initiatives, research, and efforts at recruitment and retention of talent. Through training sessions and meetings, I would make sure everyone understands that we value the contributions that our employees bring to meeting HUD’s mission, and that, together, we are responsible for maintaining a workplace that is fair, inclusive, free from all forms of harassment and discrimination, and provides all staff with an opportunity to grow and thrive. I would do my best to lead by example, maintaining a leadership style that reinforces the values of civil treatment and building teams based on mutual respect and dignity.**

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**Questions for Mr. Solomon J. Greene, Assistant Secretary Designate, Housing and Urban Development, from Ranking Member Pat Toomey:**

*Congressional oversight*

- 1) Please provide your philosophy on how HUD will approach and respond to Congressional information requests (both for documentary information and oral testimony), if you are confirmed.

**I recognize that Congress plays an important oversight role regarding executive branch activities, and I pledge to thoughtfully consider all Congressional information requests, recognizing the importance of transparency in government. If confirmed, I pledge to work through the accommodations process to comply with Congressional requests for information to the fullest extent consistent with the constitutional and statutory obligations of the executive branch.**

- 2) If confirmed, do you intend to respond to information requests differently depending on who is making the Congressional information request (whether it's the chair of the Congressional committee, the ranking member, or another member of Congress)? Please answer "yes" or "no." If your answer is "yes," please explain.

**I recognize that Congress plays an important oversight role regarding executive branch activities, and I pledge to thoughtfully consider all Congressional information requests, recognizing the importance of transparency in government. If confirmed, I pledge to work through the accommodations process to comply with Congressional requests for information to the fullest extent consistent with the constitutional and statutory obligations of the executive branch.**

- 3) Will you commit that, if confirmed, you will timely respond to and fully comply with all information requests from me? Please answer "yes" or "no." If your answer is "no," please explain.

**I recognize that Congress plays an important oversight role regarding executive branch activities, and I pledge to thoughtfully consider all Congressional information requests including from any member, recognizing the importance of transparency in government. If confirmed, I pledge to work through the accommodations process to comply with Congressional requests for information to the fullest extent consistent with the constitutional and statutory obligations of the executive branch.**

- 4) Will you commit that, if confirmed, you will make yourself and any other HUD employee expeditiously available to provide oral testimony (including but not limited to briefings, hearings, and transcribed interviews) to the Committee on any matter within its

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jurisdiction, upon the request of either the Chairman or Ranking Member? Please answer “yes” or “no.” If your answer is “no,” please explain why.

**I recognize that oral testimony plays an important role in Congress’ important oversight responsibilities regarding executive branch activities. If confirmed, I commit to brief or testify regarding Congressional requests consistent with this important oversight function.**

- 5) Do you believe that HUD may assert any privileges or other legal justifications to withhold information (whether records or oral testimony) from Congress? Please answer “yes” or “no.”

**My understanding is that any determination as to whether HUD has an applicable privilege or other justification to withhold information from Congress would be made by the Office of General Counsel. Should I be confirmed, and should such a question arise during my tenure, I would consult closely with that office.**

- 6) If you answered “yes” to the preceding question, please list every such privilege or other legal justification and provide the legal basis for why you believe HUD may use such privilege or legal justification to withhold information from Congress.

**If confirmed, I would work with the Office of General Counsel to ensure that I am fully complying with all legal requirements.**

- 7) In an effort to be open and transparent with Congress and the public, will you commit not to assert any such privilege or legal justification against Congress that you listed above? If not, why not? If so, please identify all such privileges or legal justifications that you will commit to not assert against Congress.

**If confirmed, I would work with the Office of General Counsel to ensure that I am fully complying with all legal requirements.**

Regulatory process

- 8) How will you lead the Office of Policy Development and Research to ensure that each proposed policy is reviewed to determine if it is economically significant?

**A Regulatory Impact Analysis (RIA) is required for any HUD regulation or mortgagee letter that has a significant economic impact. If confirmed, I will work to ensure that PD&R has the appropriate staffing and support it needs to conduct rigorous RIAs for all HUD regulations that require them. That includes ensuring staff are using the best available data and research, economic theory, and advice from policy experts when conducting their analyses. I will also ensure that HUD staff seek robust input and advice from key external stakeholders for major RIAs, such as other Federal agencies, OIRA, and through public comment.**

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9) Will you develop regulatory impact analyses for all economically significant policies?

**Yes. If confirmed, I will ensure that PD&R conducts rigorous Regulatory Impact Analyses (RIAs) for all economically significant HUD policies, as required by Executive Order 12866.**

*Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH)*

10) When now-Deputy Secretary Todman was NAHRO's CEO, NAHRO argued in a 2018 comment letter about AFFH that entities should not have to analyze "non-housing related topics (e.g. transportation, education, infrastructure, etc.)." Do you agree with this statement? If not, under what circumstances would it be appropriate for HUD to require such analysis?

**If confirmed, it would not be my role to make decisions about the content of rules interpreting and implementing the AFFH requirement of the Fair Housing Act. My job, if confirmed, would be to assist the Secretary, the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, and the Office of General Counsel in making such decisions in an informed way based on data and evidence.**

11) NAHRO argued in the same 2018 comment letter that entities should not have to "complete analyses of areas outside of their own jurisdiction . . ." Do you agree with this statement? If not, under what circumstances would it be appropriate for HUD to require such analysis?

**If confirmed, it would not be my role to make decisions about the content of rules interpreting and implementing the AFFH requirement of the Fair Housing Act. My job, if confirmed, would be to assist the Secretary, the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, and the Office of General Counsel in making such decisions in an informed way based on data and evidence.**

12) NAHRO's 2018 AFFH comment letter also argued that housing agencies should not have to hire a consultant to complete the AFFH process. Do you agree with this position? If not, why?

**If confirmed, it would not be my role to make decisions about the content of rules interpreting and implementing the AFFH requirement of the Fair Housing Act. My job, if confirmed, would be to assist the Secretary, the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, and the Office of General Counsel in making such decisions in an informed way based on data and evidence.**

13) In addition, NAHRO's 2018 AFFH comment letter argued that HUD should approve an AFFH plan if the entity at issue, like a public housing agency, made a "good faith effort

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to comply with the AFFH process and submits a fair housing assessment.” Would you support including such a safe harbor in any revisions to HUD’s AFFH rule?

**If confirmed, it would not be my role to make decisions about the content of rules interpreting and implementing the AFFH requirement of the Fair Housing Act. My job, if confirmed, would be to assist the Secretary, the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, and the Office of General Counsel in making such decisions in an informed way based on data and evidence.**

14) Is it ever appropriate for HUD to tell localities precisely where to place new housing? If so, under what circumstances?

**If confirmed, it would not be my role to make decisions such as whether it is ever appropriate for HUD to take such action. My job, if confirmed, would be to assist the Secretary and other relevant offices within HUD in making such decisions in an informed way based on data and evidence. Having said that, my understanding is that HUD does not engage in telling localities precisely where to place new housing.**

15) Do you believe that any potential revisions to AFFH should reduce the burden on localities when compared to the 2015 AFFH rule?

**If confirmed, it would not be my role to make decisions about the content of rules interpreting and implementing the AFFH requirement of the Fair Housing Act. My job, if confirmed, would be to assist the Secretary, the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, and the Office of General Counsel in making such decisions in an informed way based on data and evidence. My understanding is that HUD has stated an intention to reduce the compliance burden to the extent possible in formulating a revised AFFH rule. If confirmed, I would work with the Secretary and my colleagues across HUD to ensure they have the data and information they need to carry out these policy choices.**

**Disparate Impact**

16) HUD recently proposed reinstating its 2013 disparate impact rule. I’m concerned that this proposal willfully disregards the U.S. Supreme Court’s decisions in *Texas Dept. of Housing and Community Affairs v. Inclusive Communities Project, Inc.*, 576 U.S. 519 (2015), which identified constitutional guardrails for disparate impact liability. Under HUD’s 2013 disparate impact rule, it seemed that defendants were often guilty until proven innocent. Defendants lacked the protections announced by the Supreme Court in *Inclusive Communities*, like the need for a plaintiff to prove a robust causality between the plaintiff’s action and the alleged harm. Reinstating this rule without taking *Inclusive Communities* into account will invite a wave of frivolous lawsuits against housing providers and made it costlier to access affordable housing.

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- a. Do you acknowledge that *Inclusive Communities* defines limitations for the scope of disparate impact liability?

**If confirmed, it would not be my role to make decisions about the content of rules interpreting and implementing the Fair Housing Act. My job, if confirmed, would be to assist the Secretary, the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, and the Office of General Counsel in making such decisions in an informed way based on data and evidence.**

- b. Will you ensure that any revised rule complies with the Supreme Court’s limitations in *Inclusive Communities*?

**If confirmed, it would not be my role to make decisions about the content of rules interpreting and implementing the Fair Housing Act. My job, if confirmed, would be to assist the Secretary, the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, and the Office of General Counsel in making such decisions in an informed way based on data and evidence.**

- c. In 2019, when now-HUD Deputy Secretary Adrienne Todman was CEO of NAHRO, that organization filed a comment letter arguing that HUD should exempt housing authorities from disparate impact if a policy is “a reasonable approach and in the housing authority’s sound discretion.” The comment letter quoted the Supreme Court in *Inclusive Communities* that disparate impact liability should not “second-guess . . . approaches a housing authority should follow” and that the Fair Housing Act “does not decree a particular vision of urban development.” As an Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research, will you evaluate the possibility of including such a safe harbor in any revisions to HUD’s disparate impact rule?

**If confirmed, it would not be my role to make decisions about the content of rules interpreting and implementing the Fair Housing Act. My job, if confirmed, would be to assist the Secretary, the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, and the Office of General Counsel in making such decisions in an informed way based on data and evidence.**

- d. Will you commit that any revisions to HUD’s disparate impact rule will follow the Supreme Court’s 2015 dictate in *Inclusive Communities* that “disparate-impact liability [should not] be so expansive as to inject racial considerations into every housing decision?”

**If confirmed, it would not be my role to make decisions about the content of rules interpreting and implementing the Fair Housing Act. My job, if confirmed, would be to assist the Secretary, the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, and the Office of General Counsel in making such decisions in an informed way based on data and evidence.**



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- e. Will you commit that any revisions to HUD’s disparate impact rule will follow the Supreme Court’s dictate in *Inclusive Communities* that “disparate impact liability must be limited so employers [can] make . . . practical business choices and profit-related decisions [to] sustain a vibrant and dynamic free-enterprise system?”

**If confirmed, it would not be my role to make decisions about the content of rules interpreting and implementing the Fair Housing Act. My job, if confirmed, would be to assist the Secretary, the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, and the Office of General Counsel in making such decisions in an informed way based on data and evidence.**

- f. Will you commit that any revisions to HUD’s disparate impact rule will follow the Supreme Court’s dictate in *Inclusive Communities* to have “adequate safeguards” for defendants at the prima facie (pleading) stage so “race [is not] used and considered in a pervasive way [that] would almost inexorably lead governmental or private entities to use numerical quotas . . . ?”

**If confirmed, it would not be my role to make decisions about the content of rules interpreting and implementing the Fair Housing Act. My job, if confirmed, would be to assist the Secretary, the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, and the Office of General Counsel in making such decisions in an informed way based on data and evidence.**

- g. Will you commit that any revisions to HUD’s disparate impact rule will follow the Supreme Court’s dictate in *Inclusive Communities* to have “robust causality” between the defendant’s actions and the harm to a protected class so that defendants will not be held liable for racial disparities they did not create?

**If confirmed, it would not be my role to make decisions about the content of rules interpreting and implementing the Fair Housing Act. My job, if confirmed, would be to assist the Secretary, the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, and the Office of General Counsel in making such decisions in an informed way based on data and evidence.**

- h. Will you commit that any revisions to HUD’s disparate impact rule will follow the Supreme Court’s dictate in *Inclusive Communities* to focus on removing “artificial, arbitrary, and unnecessary barrier[s]” to housing?

**If confirmed, it would not be my role to make decisions about the content of rules interpreting and implementing the Fair Housing Act. My job, if confirmed, would be to assist the Secretary, the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, and the Office of General Counsel in making such decisions in an informed way based on data and evidence.**

*Barriers to Affordable Housing*

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17) In January 2021, HUD released a report entitled “Eliminating Regulatory Barriers to Affordable Housing: Federal, State, Local, and Tribal Opportunities,” which “identifies many federal regulations and practices that could be revised to eliminate unnecessary burdens to providing Americans with affordable, safe, quality places to live, including opportunities to make sustainable homeownership more achievable.”<sup>1</sup> Which of the report’s recommendations do you agree with?

**I have written extensively about the need to remove regulatory barriers to ease upward pressures on housing costs and expand housing options and neighborhood choices for all American families. Of the many recommendations highlighted in this report, I believe the most impactful are within the domain of states and local governments. If confirmed, I will work with staff to elevate best practices and advance the field’s knowledge about the impacts of removing regulatory barriers at the state and local levels, including but not limited to strategies for streamlining permitting processes and easing overly burdensome land use regulations.**

18) The January 2021 HUD report on barriers to affordable housing described regulatory and sub-regulatory changes to modernize Davis-Bacon.<sup>2</sup> Do you support and will you work to implement any administrative reforms to update Davis-Bacon?

**Administering Davis-Bacon regulations is not under the purview of HUD’s Office of Policy Development and Research.**

*HUD pilot projects*

19) In recent years, HUD has started some important pilot programs to study the effectiveness of Housing Choice Vouchers and to try to improve them for beneficiaries. Would you be open to additional pilots? If so, what kinds of pilots?

**If confirmed, I would be happy to support the Office of Public and Indian Housing to shape a new pilot program as directed by Congress.**

*Ensuring that HUD assistance is not for a “lifetime”*

20) In December 2020, HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge said that “public housing or low income housing should not be a lifetime, it should be just a stopping point.”<sup>3</sup> What do

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<sup>1</sup> HUD, *Eliminating Regulatory Barriers to Affordable Housing: Federal, State, Local, and Tribal Opportunities*, (Jan. 19, 2021), available at <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/eliminating-regulatory-barriers-to-affordable-housing.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at 48–49.

<sup>3</sup> Errin Haines, ‘I want to be part of making this work:’ Marcia Fudge talks about how she plans to lead HUD, The 19<sup>th</sup> (Dec. 10, 2020), available at <https://19thnews.org/2020/12/marcia-fudge-interview-nomination-department-of-housing-and-urban-development/>.

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you intend to do during your time as the Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research to advance that goal?

**Over the years, HUD has supported a large body of research that builds the evidence on promoting self-sufficiency for HUD-assisted tenants. If confirmed, I intend to continue working with this Committee, the Secretary, stakeholders, and program offices within HUD to advance our understanding of how public and affordable housing programs can be an effective platform for achieving greater economic opportunity for low-income tenants.**

*Moving to Work (MTW)*

21) The Moving to Work (MTW) Demonstration Program provides public housing agencies with exemptions from many existing public housing and voucher rules and funding flexibility with how to use federal funds. Do you support expanding the number of MTW jurisdictions to allow more communities to experiment on how to make that a reality?

**If confirmed, I commit to working with the Secretary and the Office of Public and Indian Housing to advance a rigorous research agenda on MTW that evaluates how well the initiative is reaching the program's Congressionally-mandated objectives, which includes expanding the number of MTW jurisdictions.**

22) Would you consider expanding MTW to allow defined-stay tenancy for new tenants (i.e., time limits) in exchange for a set rent that will not increase with income?

**While I cannot comment on HUD's specific plans on the MTW expansion, if confirmed, I do commit to consulting with the MTW Research Advisory Committee to help inform the future of the MTW demonstration and which innovations should be tested. Any decisions on the specifics for MTW expansion will be made by the Secretary of HUD in consultation with the Office of Public and Indian Housing.**

*Environmental regulations*

23) Regarding HUD's environmental regulations that govern HUD's programs, how will you balance the need to protect the environment with the need to limit the cost of building new affordable housing?

**If confirmed, I would use existing, Congressionally-mandated processes to review environmental regulations to take into account both environmental protection and the affordability and availability of housing. In many instances, making housing safer, healthier, and more sustainable aligns with affordability, particularly when considered over the long term. If confirmed, I would ensure that HUD makes well-informed decisions relying on public input, in-house expertise, interagency feedback, and the best available data, research and evidence.**

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Manufactured housing

24) The Manufactured Housing Consensus Committee (MHCC) is a Federal Advisory Committee statutorily authorized to develop and submit to the HUD Secretary manufactured home construction and safety standards. The law requires the MHCC to “submit proposed revised standards . . . to the [HUD] Secretary in the form of a proposed rule, including an economic analysis.”<sup>4</sup> Accordingly, the MHCC must have resources devoted to developing these required economic analyses. Will you provide the resources that are necessary for the MHCC to develop economic analyses to accompany the construction and safety standards being considered by the MHCC so that the standards are revised to keep up with innovations in the market?

**The Office of Housing, Office of Manufactured Housing Programs supports the MHCC and works with its members to identify and prioritize research needs. If confirmed, I would be happy to support the research needs of the Office of Housing.**

Mutual Mortgage Insurance (MMI) Fund

25) The FY20 Report on the MMI Fund shows that subjecting the FY20 portfolio to the same macroeconomic conditions faced during the housing crisis would create losses in excess of MMI Fund capital, resulting in a MMI Fund capital ratio of -0.63%, below the statutory 2% minimum, and requiring a bailout. Would you consider it a failure if the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) draws funds from the Treasury to cover losses, or put more simply, requires a bailout?

**I am not an expert on the MMI Fund. If confirmed, I would want to learn more about this issue, and I would ensure the Office of Housing has the necessary data and research support it needs to make policy determinations regarding the MMI Fund.**

26) Do you think the MMI Fund as of FY20 has sufficient capital reserves?

**I am not an expert on the MMI Fund. If confirmed, I would want to learn more about this issue, and I would ensure the Office of Housing has the necessary data and research support it needs to make policy determinations regarding the MMI Fund.**

27) Do you think it is inappropriate to build a capital buffer able to withstand a shock of the kind experienced during the 2008 housing crisis?

**I am not an expert on the MMI Fund. If confirmed, I would want to learn more about this issue, and I would ensure the Office of Housing has the necessary data and research support it needs to make policy determinations regarding the MMI Fund.**

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<sup>4</sup> 42 U.S.C. § 5403(a)(4)(A)(ii).

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28) Is the statutory 2% MMI Fund capital ratio a sufficient buffer to protect against taxpayer losses? If not, what do you believe is appropriate? If not the 2008 housing crisis, what stress level scenario should FHA consider when deciding what capital buffer is sufficient?

**I am not an expert on the MMI Fund. If confirmed, I would want to learn more about this issue, and I would ensure the Office of Housing has the necessary data and research support it needs to make policy determinations regarding the MMI Fund.**

29) Do you have plans to impose the same climate stress tests and climate change regulatory standards on FHA's lending portfolio as several Biden administration officials have discussed doing for private sector market participants?

**If confirmed, it would not be my role to make these decisions.**

*Eviction Moratorium*

30) Do you think eviction moratoriums such as those issued by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are good policy? If your answer is "yes," please explain why.

**I defer to the CDC and the Administration on any decisions related to the CDC eviction moratorium.**

31) Are any of the eviction moratoriums issued by the CDC legal? If your answer is "yes," please explain why.

**I do not have a legal opinion on this matter.**

*Answering Questions for the Record*

32) Please describe with particularity the process by which you answered these questions for the record, including listing every person that assisted you in answering these questions along with a brief description of his or her assistance.

**The Department of Housing and Urban Development received these questions on August 9, 2021. I worked with Department attorneys and through the interagency process to answer the questions. I finalized and approved all answers to the questions and authorized their transmission to the Committee on August 13, 2021.**

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**Questions for Mr. Solomon J. Greene, Assistant Secretary Designate, Housing and Urban Development, from Senator Robert Menendez:**

In a report about eviction, Mr. Greene wrote that housing counseling is an element of eviction prevention.<sup>5</sup> While I was able to include \$100 million in housing counseling as part of the American Rescue Plan, the eviction numbers show an overwhelming need for eviction prevention help.

- 1) In your view, what should Congress do to strengthen housing counseling services?

**If confirmed to serve as Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research at HUD, one of my central responsibilities would be to provide the Secretary, program offices, and Congress with the data, research and insights they need to make evidence-based policy decisions. I am also aware of the Secretary’s commitment to strengthen HUD’s housing counseling programs and to ensure that housing counseling services are reaching the communities that need them most. If confirmed, I would welcome the opportunity to support the Secretary, HUD’s Office of Housing and Congress by synthesizing the best available evidence on housing counseling programs and supporting new research to fill knowledge gaps.**

**From past research that I and colleagues in the research community have conducted, I know that housing counseling agencies across the country are retooling their services and approaches to address new needs and challenges facing both renters and homeowners as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic fallout. I am committed to learning more about the resource and capacity needs of these agencies, evaluating the effectiveness of housing counseling organizations in preventing evictions, and identifying best practices and evidence-based policies related to housing counseling.**

**If confirmed, I would want to learn more about work underway within PD&R to evaluate housing counseling and other eviction prevention. I would also want to move quickly to propose ways to fill knowledge gaps and improve outcomes with HUD administrative data and through PD&R’s research agenda.**

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<sup>5</sup> [https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/104148/eviction-prevention-and-diversion-programs-early-lessons-from-the-pandemic\\_0\\_0.pdf](https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/104148/eviction-prevention-and-diversion-programs-early-lessons-from-the-pandemic_0_0.pdf)