

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 12, 2016

Attorney General Loretta Lynch
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20530

Secretary Julian Castro
Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Attorney General Lynch and Secretary Castro:

As Members of Florida's Congressional Delegation, we thank the Departments of Justice and Housing and Urban Development for your commitment to update the Joint Statement on Group Homes, Local Land Use, and the Fair Housing Act. We recognize and appreciate that both of your agencies have invested significant time and resources into this effort and encourage you to release an updated Joint Statement as soon as is reasonably possible. We would also like to thank HUD Assistant Secretary Gustavo Velasquez for visiting Florida in May to learn firsthand the issues facing communities in our Congressional Districts relating to the proliferation of sober homes and for sharing his observations with his counterparts at DOJ.

As you are aware, in large part because of the serious opioid crisis, there has been significant growth in the recovery residence industry across the country, particularly in Florida. These businesses pose challenges to local and state governments seeking to regulate the industry in a way that protects the rights of individuals seeking recovery and maintains the residential character of neighborhoods.

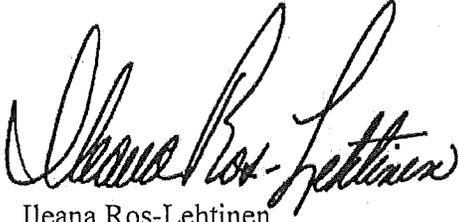
State and local officials in our Congressional Districts are in great need of additional guidance, and we expect that an updated Joint Statement will provide with the information needed to promote public health and safety, uphold the civil rights of individuals in recovery, and maintain the residential character of neighborhoods.

Again, we thank you and your staff for your continued efforts on this critically important issue. If you have any questions, please contact Grant Dubler on Congresswoman Frankel's staff at grant.dubler@mail.house.gov.

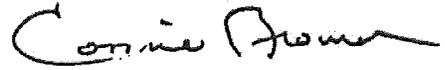
Sincerely,


Lois Frankel
Member of Congress

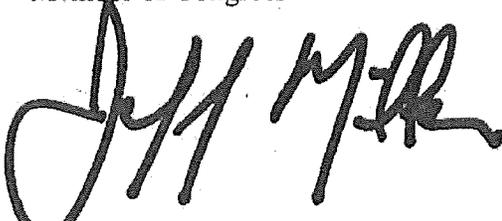

Ted Deutch
Member of Congress



Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress



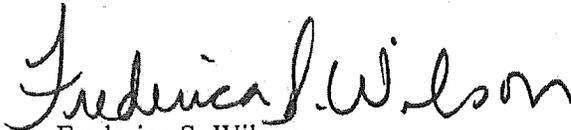
Corrine Brown
Member of Congress



Jeff Miller
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress