DC Council members,

We, the undersigned organizations, join together to ask you to stop Mayor Bowser from terminating DC residents from the rapid re-housing program for hitting an arbitrary time limit. This year, as many as 913 families are facing time limit terminations. The Bowser Administration estimates that 90% of these families would not be able to afford rent on their own if their subsidy was terminated.

The lack of affordable housing in the District of Columbia is a structural, systemic problem with deep roots that demands comprehensive and sustained solutions. Cutting DC residents from rental assistance for hitting a time limit when they cannot afford market rent on their own is unfair, unjust, and will lead to increased evictions and homelessness--disproportionately harming Black residents and other communities of color.

We ask you to:

1) Demand that the Mayor immediately withdraw all time-limit termination notices that have been issued by the Department of Human Services (DHS),

2) Devote surplus funds to maintain rapid re-housing rental support until every participant has the resources they need to afford housing,

3) Increase permanent affordable housing vouchers in next year’s budget so that rapid re-housing participants can transition into a program that better maintains housing stability, including Targeted Affordable Housing for families and Local Rent Supplement Program tenant vouchers, and

4) Reform rapid re-housing legislatively so that DC residents cannot be terminated for a time limit until they can afford rent without further assistance.

Sincerely,

1) Amara Legal Center
2) Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center
3) Asian/Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project
4) Black Swan Academy
5) Dr. Nia Bodrick, Pediatrician
6) Bread for the City
7) Cancel Rent DC
8) Capital Pride Alliance
9) Children’s Law Center
10) Coalition for Smarter Growth
11) DC Action
12) DC Asthma Coalition
13) DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence
14) DC for Democracy
15) DC Fiscal Policy Institute
16) DC KinCare Alliance
17) DC Tenants’ Rights Center
18) DC Statehood Green Party
19) District Alliance for Safe Housing, Inc
20) Empower DC
21) Equal Rights Center
22) Fair Budget Coalition
23) Valerie Schneider, Director, Fair Housing Clinic, Howard University School of Law
24) Fay Law Group, P.A.
25) Dr. Eduardo Fox, Pediatrician
26) Friendship Place
27) GLAA
28) Yael Cannon, Associate Professor and Director; Marta Beresin, Visiting Professor; Ashley Nyce, Supervising Attorney/Clinical Teaching Fellow; Lillian Kang, Supervising Attorney/Clinical Teaching Fellow (Health Justice Alliance Law Clinic, Georgetown University Law Center)
29) Homeless Children's Playtime Project
30) Housing Is a Human Right
31) Institute for Public Health Innovation
32) Jews United for Justice
33) Latino Economic Development Center
34) Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia
35) Legal Counsel for the Elderly
36) Mother’s Outreach Network
37) NAACP DC
38) National Coalition for the Homeless
39) National Homelessness Law Center
40) Pathways to Housing DC
41) The Platform of Hope
42) The Person Center
43) Positive Force DC
44) Rising for Justice
45) Keeshea Turner Roberts, Adjunct Clinical Law Professor
46) Save Us Now Inc
47) SchoolHouse Connection
48) Spaces in Action
49) Tzedek DC
50) Washington AIDS Partnership
51) Washington Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs
52) The Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless
53) We Are Family Senior Outreach Network
54) Caroline Wick, Practitioner-In-Residence, American University Washington College of Law
55) Woodner Tenants' Union
56) Yachad