



UNITED STATES SENATOR *for* ARIZONA

## The Housing Voucher Fairness Act

### THE PROBLEM

In Arizona and across the nation, affordable housing remains scarce. According to The National Low Income Housing Coalition, there is a **national shortage of 7 million affordable rental homes available** to extremely low-income renters whose household incomes are below the federal poverty level or 30 percent of their area median income. The Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Housing Choice Voucher program is not meeting the housing supply challenges we currently face because the number of available vouchers has not adequately kept pace with the growth of many American cities. **This is because vouchers are kept at a relatively flat annual rate based on outdated population calculations dating back to the 20<sup>th</sup> century.** The yearly flat allocation of vouchers means that the nation's fastest-growing cities are left with an ever-increasing gap in the supply of housing vouchers compared to the rapid demand for affordable housing.

#### *By The Numbers*

- Phoenix is the **fifth largest city** in the United States, with over **1.4 million residents**.
- Based on 2020 Census information, **the city grew faster than any other major city from 2010 to 2020**. Phoenix grew by more than **160,000 people** in this period, an increase of **11.2%**.
- Phoenix currently receives **7,487 vouchers**, yet Philadelphia, the nation's sixth largest, receives over **22,000**, three times as many.

### THE SOLUTION

By authorizing an additional \$2 billion in funding for HUD for the Housing Choice Voucher program, we can ensure that the public housing authorities that represent the country's 25 fastest-growing cities with a population of over 100,000 have the resources they need to procure enough vouchers to meet the needs of their population. Specifically, this bill will provide \$2 billion in additional funding for HUD to be distributed to the public housing authorities representing the country's 25 fastest-growing cities over the ten-year period from 2012 to 2022. It will ensure that the funds are distributed commensurate to the historical shortfall in vouchers that these cities face, aiming to deliver equitable housing funding across the nation's biggest cities.