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LIHCA APPLAUDS HOUSING TRUST FUND BILL INTRODUCTION TO THE ALABAMA STATE LEGISLATURE

Birmingham, AL – Alabama has an estimated shortage of over 44,000 affordable and available housing units.¹ In this time of economic crisis, many of our neighbors, coworkers, friends, and family members are unable to find safe and affordable housing for their families.

Yesterday Representative Patricia Todd (District 54 – Birmingham) introduced House Bill 349 (HB349) to the public. HB349 calls for the establishment of an affordable housing trust fund for Alabama to produce and maintain rental and homeownership options for low income residents.

The Low Income Housing Coalition of Alabama (LIHCA) supports the establishment of this Affordable Housing Trust Fund because it will address the housing needs of low-income Alabamians. “Everyone deserves the opportunity to succeed in life,” said LIHCA Board President Marcie Porter. “In Alabama this begins with a place to call home.”

Given the current economic environment and the ongoing foreclosure crisis, the ability of every person to secure safe, decent, and affordable housing is on the minds of all Alabamians. LIHCA recognizes that affordable housing has been a long-standing challenge for thousands of Alabamians who have been facing a housing crisis for years. An affordable housing trust fund provides the opportunity for the creation of new affordable housing units as well as the rehabilitation and repair of existing homes throughout Alabama. LIHCA is committed to this legislation as a means of improving the current housing stock and developing new affordable housing units.

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¹ National Low Income Housing Coalition Congressional District Profile Study, January 2007