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

Birmingham, AL – The National Low Income Housing Coalition estimates that Alabama lacks over 90,000 affordable and available homes for low income residents, including people living with disabilities and those surviving on minimum wage. ***This is an astounding number*** and one that doesn't even account for the devastation wrought by the storms of April 2011. What was already a terrible situation was made exponentially worse on April 27th. In this time of economic crisis, many of our neighbors, coworkers, friends, and family members are unable to find safe and affordable homes for their families.

Representative Patricia Todd (District 54) has introduced House Bill 110 (HB110) in advance of the 2012 legislative session. HB110 calls for the establishment of an affordable housing trust fund for Alabama. Senator Arthur Orr (District 3) supports this bill and will introduce a companion bill in the Senate during the session. A housing trust fund is a flexible pot of money available in states and municipalities for the creation, maintenance, and retention of affordable homes.

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. "The solid foundation of a house builds a solid foundation for a successful life. Everyone in Alabama deserves the opportunity to succeed in life," said LIHCA Board President Marcie Porter. "And this begins with a place to call home."

Given the current economic environment and the ongoing foreclosure crisis, in addition to the recovery efforts in many of our counties, the ability of every person to secure a safe, decent, and affordable home 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. LIHCA is committed to this legislation as a means of improving the current housing stock and developing new affordable homes for our fellow residents.

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