For the first time in recent history, the average national rent-to-income ratio reached 30%, meaning that renters are spending a whopping 30% of their earnings on housing and the average American renter is now considered rent-burdened. The U.S. Census estimates that more than 19 million renter households meet the threshold for being classified as rent-burdened.

As the cost of home ownership continues to rise, far outpacing the increase in wages, more Americans have opted to rent. However, with a shortage of affordable housing, inadequate federal rental assistance and insufficient federal renter/fair housing protections, many Americans are forced to spend more and more just to have a place to live. While local and state governments have worked to address this growing crisis, a comprehensive, federal approach is needed.

The Renters Caucus is establishing the first-ever Renters Agenda in Congress—a comprehensive set of bills to protect and uplift renters—focused on these three pillars:

**LOWER COSTS:**
Significantly expand the value and availability of rental assistance and public housing while reducing costs for eligible cost-burdened renters.

**INCREASE SUPPLY:**
Drastically increase the supply of affordable/high quality public and private rental housing.

**REMOVE BARRIERS:**
Eliminate administrative, bureaucratic, and discriminatory barriers renters face when accessing fair and affordable rental housing.
LEGISLATION

RENTER-FOCUSED PACKAGES

HR 7325: Community Housing Act—Rep. Balint
HR 5254: Housing for All Act—Rep. Lieu
HR 2974: Interagency Council on Affordable Housing Act—Rep. Schiff

LOWER COSTS:

HR 418: Affordable Housing Equity Act—Rep. Gomez
HR 4233: Housing Crisis Response Act—Rep. Waters
HR 3238: Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act—Rep. DelBene and Rep. LaHood
HR 7075: HOME Investment Partnerships Reauthorization and Improvement Act—Rep. Beatty

INCREASE SUPPLY:

HR 6721: Rent Relief Act—Rep. Davis
HR 4232: Ending Homelessness Act—Rep. Waters
HR 4606: Choice in Affordable Housing Act—Rep. Cleaver
HR 8327: Stable Families Act—Rep. Torres

REMOVE BARRIERS:

HR 4560: Housing FIRST Act—Rep. Pressley
HR 5827: Tenants’ Right to Organize Act—Rep. Ramirez
HR 4907: End Junk Fees for Renters Act—Rep. Frost
HR 2846: Fair Housing Improvement Act—Rep. Peters

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