

FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

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February 8, 2022

The Honorable Jay Trumbull
Chairman, House Appropriations Committee
402 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

RE: Full Appropriation of Funding for Sadowski Housing Programs

Dear Chairman Trumbull:

We write regarding the House's initial budget proposal related to the Sadowski Housing Programs – State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL), for the development of affordable multifamily rental housing, and State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP), to fund construction and rehabilitation of affordable ownership housing, down payment assistance, and rental development. The 1992 William E. Sadowski Affordable Housing Act raised the state documentary stamp tax on deeds and directed the new funds to these housing trust funds. Since 2002, as a result of a budget deficit, over \$1 billion of the housing trust funds were swept. In 2021, the Florida Legislature permanently reduced the monies going into the Sadowski housing trust funds by fifty percent, but committed in statute to secure the trust from any future sweeps and to utilize the trust to fully fund SHIP and SAIL.

However, we are concerned that the House's current budget proposal designates only \$268,100,000 for SHIP and SAIL. This is far below the Senate's initial budget proposal of \$337,725,000 for these programs. We write to bring awareness to this large discrepancy. The State of Florida has the nation's third-highest homeless population and funding for these programs is critical as affordable housing construction and rehabilitation stimulates local economies and creates jobs.

We ask that the Appropriations Committee fully appropriates all of the Sadowski housing trust funds for the Sadowski Housing Programs, as was promised last term.

Sincerely,

Christie C. Arnold
Associate for Social Concerns/Respect Life

cc: Most Rev. Thomas G. Wenski, Archbishop of Miami and FCCB President
Michael B. Sheedy