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**Fwd: Please Endorse Legislation to Aid Montana First Responders**

3 messages

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**Manhattan Mayor** <manhattanmayor@gmail.com>  
To: Pam Humphrey <phumphrey.town@gmail.com>

Wed, May 1, 2024 at 8:59 AM

Hi Pam, Helper Act we spoke about - Thanks

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ryan Wilson** <rwilson@commonwealthstrategic.com>  
Date: Mon, Apr 15, 2024 at 1:43 PM  
Subject: Please Endorse Legislation to Aid Montana First Responders  
To: manhattanmayor@gmail.com <manhattanmayor@gmail.com>

Hello Mayor Howells,

I am reaching out to ask for your city's endorsement of the **Homes for Every Local Protector, Educator, and Responder (HELPER) Act**, a bipartisan federal bill which would aid your city's residents.


The **HELPER Act** would support police and corrections officers, firefighters, EMTs and paramedics, and preK-12 teachers by providing a VA-style home loan program. A HELPER loan would provide 100% financing and eliminate monthly mortgage insurance payments for a first-time home purchase. In addition to making housing more affordable for these public servants, it would serve as an incentive that would help recruit and retain these critical workers.

Several of your Montana Colleagues have already endorsed including:  
- Mayor of Billings Mayor of Great Falls

**Their letters of support are attached.** Although the HELPER Act did not pass last Congress, we have reintroduced it in both the House and Senate with bipartisan support. **If you are willing to endorse the HELPER Act, please sign the attached draft letter of support.** Your endorsement will go a long way toward getting the bill passed.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Ryan Wilson  
Government Affairs Coordinator  
Commonwealth Strategic Partners

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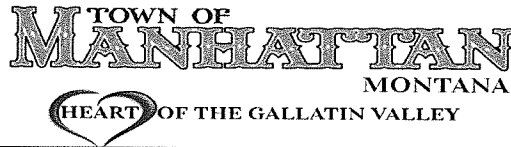
**3 attachments** **118th HELPER Act Letter of Support MAYORS (14).docx**  
29K **MT Billings Mayor Endorsement.pdf**  
436K **MT Great Falls Mayor Endorsement (1).pdf**  
170K

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**Pam Humphrey** <phumphrey.town@gmail.com>  
To: Manhattan Mayor <manhattanmayor@gmail.com>

Wed, May 1, 2024 at 9:15 AM

Traig,



May 9, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Democratic Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Republican Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Majority Leader Schumer, Leader Jeffries, and Leader McConnell:

On behalf of the Town of Manhattan, I am honored to write in strong support of S.1514 and H.R.3170, the Homes for Every Local Protector, Educator, and Responder (HELPER) Act, introduced by U.S. Senators Marco Rubio (R-FL), John Ossoff (D-GA), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Raphael Warnock (D-GA), Robert Menendez (D-NJ), Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV), and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) and U.S. Representatives John Rutherford (R-FL) and Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ).

The HELPER Act would create a home loan program within the Federal Housing Administration to help our law enforcement officers, firefighters, EMTs, paramedics, and preK-12 teachers ("first responders") by making home-ownership more affordable. Too often, our civil servants struggle to afford their first home. Because of this, we are writing in support of the HELPER Act, which would help our civil servants access the housing they need to serve their communities.

First responders dedicate their lives to protecting and serving their fellow Americans. The COVID-19 pandemic has only made clearer the ongoing challenges that these brave first responders face. It is time we honor them for their service. To that end, the HELPER Act program will function similarly to the home loan program managed by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Managed by the Federal Housing Administration, it will allow law enforcement officers, fire fighters, EMTs, paramedics, and preK-12 teachers to obtain a low-interest, fully insured home loan with no down payment and no monthly mortgage insurance costs for a first-time home purchase.

Our nation's first responders have demonstrated their unwavering commitment to their communities. Even amidst a deadly pandemic, these heroes have served without hesitation. We believe they have earned access to affordable housing so that they can provide for their families and continue to serve their communities. We hope you will join the Town of Manhattan in support of the HELPER Act, and we look forward to working with you on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Traig Howells  
Mayor

Town of Manhattan, P.O. Box 96, Manhattan MT 59741, 207 S 6th St, (406) 284-3235  
[townofmanhattan@gmail.com](mailto:townofmanhattan@gmail.com)