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## Tyletha's Section 8 Testimony

My name is Tyletha Samuels and I am here with my daughter LaShawn Cranston to testify to the 10,000 people who will possibly lose their section 8 and my family and I are one of them. When I say my family I mean two generations. My son, my daughter who have section 8 also along with her two children. That's five people. So when you talk about kicking off 10,000 add on another 40,000 to include the families.

I am a long time leader and former Welfare/Workforce Organizer at Community Voices Heard. My daughter and I have had section 8 for over ten years living in two separate apartments. We got section 8 through the shelter system. We had a fire in my apartment we became homeless and went into the shelter and got section 8. I was working as an organizer trainee and not making much money, my daughter on Public assistance luckily we got section 8 which helped. Now, ten years later we have had stable housing because we've had section 8. My daughter and I are now on disability and cannot work and are **VERY AFRAID** of what will happen if this proposed disaster of kicking 10,000 people off section 8 goes through. There are many people on disability like us who have section 8 and what will happen to us if we lose our section 8. People who are working minimum wage jobs and are on fixed incomes needs this rent subsidy to be able to afford their apartments. I don't hear of any talk of a safety net in place to support or help with paying the high cost of rent that most section 8 people have to pay. My daughter and I would have to pay over a thousand dollars a month for rent. Where will we get that kind of money? Are they going to give us another rent subsidy like the Advantage Program.

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I also worked as a families and shelter organizer at Picture the Homeless and we did a lot of outreach in shelters around New York City and we fought hard to get rid of HSP for a better rent subsidies and then we got the Advantage subsidy and now that is temporary and problematic. I won't go into all the problems with the Advantage program, but people with Fixed Advantage were promised section 8 and now they can't get it. Landlords are afraid to take the Advantage subsidy. Section 8 is the one program most landlords will take. If we lose section 8 which people rely on as a stable housing subsidy the homeless rate will skyrocket beyond the level it is already. If you take Section 8 away, my family will be homeless again.

So Senator Squadron please do all that you can do for people not to lose their section 8, and for people who have vouchers to get their section 8 apartments .If the government can find billions to bail out Wall Street, why can't the government find the money to bail out section 8. When poor people need 45 million dollars or more **THERE IS NO MONEY!** Wall Street, GM and the banks need money they find or borrow the money from somewhere. To me, if this comes to pass it would be a natural disaster.