

**AMENDMENT TO COMMITTEE PRINT OF VIEWS
AND ESTIMATES OF THE COMMITTEE ON FI-
NANCIAL SERVICES ON MATTERS TO BE SET
FORTH IN THE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004**

OFFERED BY MS. VELÁZQUEZ

Page 10, before the paragraph entitled “Empower-
ment Zones”, insert the following:

Minimum Rent Proposal. The Committee ~~opposes~~

is very strongly
concerned with the

adoption of the Administration’s legislative proposal (sec-
tion 201) to amend current minimum rent laws for low-in-
come families receiving rental assistance under the public
housing and section 8 programs.
Current law gives housing authorities the option of
setting a minimum rent of up to \$50 a month for public
housing tenants, section 8 voucher holders, and families in
section 8 housing. Housing authorities that set a minimum
rent have the option of establishing hardship exemptions.
These provisions were crafted in a bipartisan manner as
part of the 1998 public housing bill.

Section 201 of the HUD budget would require all those
in public housing or receiving section 8 rental assistance
to pay a minimum rent of at least \$50, but sets no limit
on how much the minimum rent could be. Thus, \$50 would
no longer be a ceiling, but a floor. The proposal also abol-
ishes the authority of housing authorities to establish
hardship exemptions, instead giving the Secretary of HUD
the authority to do so on a case-by-case basis.

The effect of these changes could be to require our na-
tion’s most destitute families to pay at least \$600 a year,
to permit housing authorities to raise rents without limits
on the millions of families receiving public housing or sec-
tion 8 assistance, and to take away flexibility housing au-
thorities now have to create hardship exemptions to a min-
imum rent requirement. These changes are ~~unwarranted.~~

of strong concern to the
Committee.

