

One Hundred Tenth Congress  
**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Office of the Speaker**

JUL 15 2008

July 9, 2008

DATE REC'D \_\_\_\_\_  
CONTROL # 420  
ACTION OFFICE BMR  
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SUSPENSE \_\_\_\_\_  
REMARKS 7/29

Meredith Attwell Baker  
Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Ms. Baker,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the upcoming digital television transition and its impact on group home residents throughout the country.

I am pleased to learn that NTIA is contemplating a change, or waiver, to the definition of "household" in its rules implementing the DTV Converter Box Coupon Program to include residents of nursing homes and other senior living facilities. However, I urge NTIA to extend consideration to all comparable types of group homes. A rule enabling each resident of any such facility to receive coupons for converter boxes is critical to ensuring that every consumer regardless of income is not adversely impacted by the digital television transition.

In San Francisco, 518 Single Room Occupancy (SRO) buildings are home to more than 30,000 residents. The majority of these residents live under the national poverty level and rely solely on Social Security and General Assistance. They have limited financial resources and the inability to receive a coupon to help offset the cost of a digital television converter would present a severe financial hardship. Our low-income citizens must have the same opportunity as all Americans to obtain digital converter boxes.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter and your timely response to this request. Please contact Melissa Shannon on my staff at (202) 225-0100 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



NANCY PELOSI  
Speaker of the House