



# Housing News

## AND MEMBER UPDATE



An Electronic Newsletter Provided by the Florida Housing Coalition

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## Housing Advocates- CALL TO ACTION

House and Senate members are back in their district offices the week of February 26-March 2nd. This is a critically important time for you to contact your legislators in person or by phone. And please send a message to the Speaker of the House and President of the Senate, even if they are not from your area. They need to hear from you now.

As you know, the cap on the Housing Trust Funds is scheduled to take effect July 1, 2007-- and will limit housing to \$243 million per year unless repealed in this legislative session. Without the cap, the trust funds would receive \$450-\$600 million per year (amount varies from year to year based upon real estate values and transaction volume).

The \$243 million is less than was appropriated for housing in FY02-03-- the year before housing prices exploded in Florida. It is also more than \$200 million less than the spending levels of the past two years, and more than \$300 million less than the \$555 million yearly average for the trust funds over the next decade.

As of now, we have no indication that legislative leadership supports repeal of the cap, and instead, are hearing disturbing information that some legislators believe

the state "cannot afford" to repeal the cap. Clearly, we have not driven our message home.

It is essential that you:

1. **Contact**  
both the House Speaker and Senate President to express your support for passage of legislation that would repeal the cap, and,

- **HOUSE SPEAKER MARCO RUBIO**

**District Address:**  
1000 SW 57th Ave, Suite 200  
Miami, FL 33144-5120  
Phone: (305) 442-6939

**Legislative Address:**  
The Capitol, 402 S. Monroe St.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300  
Phone: (850) 488-1450  
Email: marco.rubio@myfloridahouse.gov

- **SENATE PRESIDENT KEN PRUITT**

**District Address:**  
1850 SW Fountainview Blvd., Suite 200  
Port Saint Lucie, FL 34986-3443  
Phone: (772) 344-1140

**Legislative Address:**  
312 Senate Office Bldg  
404 S. Monroe St.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100  
Phone: (850) 487-5088  
Email: pruitt.ken.web@flsenate.gov

2. Contact your local Senators and House members of both parties to urge them to make the repeal a priority by speaking to leadership and by co-sponsoring the repeal bills (SB 144 in the Senate and HB 367 in the House). Note: there are other repeal bills, but these bills have the best chance at moving forward.

*Click on the Directory Link Below to Enter your Zip to find your Local Representative*

**[Florida Legislative Directory](#)**

**PLEASE MAKE CONTACT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AND ADVISE US OF THE RESPONSE YOU RECEIVE TO [INFO@FLHOUSING.ORG](mailto:INFO@FLHOUSING.ORG)**

If you receive a response that references the inability of the state to afford the repeal, because of the need for general revenue: The analysis upon which that conclusion is based is flawed, and is premised upon housing being the lowest priority for state spending, behind (1) all current general revenue spending, (2) an additional \$1.225 billion for class size, increased public schools spending, medicaid increases, new Florida Forever bond debt, and new prisons, and (3) another \$854 million of recurring general revenue spending for unnamed "new issues". So in fact, we cannot afford to repeal the cap if you spend all the money all every other conceivable issue (including everything in the current GR budget), and

then see if any money is left over for housing. However, we clearly can afford to repeal the cap if housing is a priority for the state.

Also, the issue is the cap, not the appropriation level for FY07-08. Legislators may attempt to focus on appropriation levels rather than cap repeal, arguing that we should focus on the "good news" of healthy appropriations (which are by no means certain) rather than failure to repeal the cap. The only reason that appropriation levels can be "healthy" for one more year is because we have not had the cap, and the legislature has let money pile up unspent in the housing trust funds. Spending that old money would be nice-- but it will do nothing to insure that we have adequate funding every year-- only repeal of the cap can do that.

**CLICK ON THE FOLLOWING LINKS FOR TALKING POINTS AND RESOURCES FOR YOUR LETTER WRITING:**

- [2007/08 Talking Points](#)
- **ECONOMIC IMPACT OF PROPOSED FUNDING OF HOUSING TRUST FUNDS FOR THE STATE LISTED BY CITY AND COUNTY**  
*Here you will find the economic impact for each county and entitlement city on the proposed \$243 million cap of the Housing Trust Fund versus the projected new trust fund revenue FY200708 of \$555 million (the average amount of distributions into the housing trust fund each year over the next decade if the cap is repealed), (impact on additional number of families housed, total loss economic activity, addition affordable housing units needed by 2010).*

[For Full Spreadsheet Click Here](#)

- **ADDITIONAL ADVOCACY INFORMATION ON REMOVING THE CAP MAY BE FOUND INSIDE THE FLORIDA HOUSING COALITIONS LATEST HOUSING NETWORK NEWS JOURNAL.**

[Housing News Network Journal \(Winter 2007\)](#)

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