

DATE

The Honorable (Name of Senator)

U.S. Senate

District Address

City, State, Zip Code

Dear Senator (Last Name):

As one of your constituents and a resident of (Your City), I am asking you to co-sponsor legislation that will benefit senior homeowners throughout (Your state).

Senator Rick Santorum (R-PA) has introduced a bill titled the Reverse Mortgages to Help America's Seniors Act, or S. 1710. This bill removes the cap on the number of reverse mortgages the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development can insure. Without the legislation, HUD can only insure 250,000 reverse mortgages—a cap that our industry could approach within the next 12-24 months as volume increases.

HUD's reverse mortgage program is called the Home Equity Conversion Mortgage. The HECM allows older homeowners (62+) to convert part of the equity in their homes into cash without having to sell the home, give up title, or take on new monthly mortgage payments. Seniors use funds from reverse mortgages for a variety of purposes: covering healthcare expenses, eliminating mortgage or credit card debt, making home improvements or modifications, or helping pay for a grandchild's education.

I am a member of the National Reverse Mortgage Lenders Association (NRMLA), a trade association for reverse mortgage lenders and other allied professionals. NRMLA is dedicated to assuring quality and integrity in the reverse mortgage program and works closely with HUD, AARP and other interested parties to accomplish this objective.

An identical bill (H.R. 2892) sponsored by Reps. Michael Fitzpatrick (R-PA) and Jim Matheson (D-UT) passed the House of Representatives by unanimous consent on December 16, 2005. Both bills are endorsed by AARP and enjoy bipartisan support. If you would like to learn more about the reverse mortgage program and S. 1710, I can meet with you or your staff in Washington, DC or in your district office at your convenience. You can reach me by phone or e-mail at (LIST PHONE NUMBER AND E-MAIL).

To co-sponsor S. 1710, please contact Sen. Santorum's legislative aide, Heather MacLean, at 202-224-6324. Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

(YOUR NAME)