FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MAYORS AND LOCAL ELECTED LEADERS FROM ACROSS THE U.S. SEND LETTERS TO TEXAS ATTORNEY
GENERAL: GUARANTEED INCOME WORKS

(Washington, DC) – Leaders of Mayors for a Guaranteed Income (MGI) and Counties for a Guaranteed Income (CGI) have been sending letters to the Attorney General of Texas in response to his lawsuit against the guaranteed income program in Harris County. MGI Co-Chairs Michael D. Tubbs and Mayor Melvin Carter of Saint Paul, MN, CGI Co-Chairs Toni Preckwinkle, President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners, and Holly J. Mitchell, Los Angeles County Supervisor, have all sent letters, as well as Mayors & County leaders from Albuquerque, NM; Baltimore, MD; Bell Gardens, CA; Cambridge, MA; Cudahy, CA; Santa Clara, CA; Tacoma, WA; and Yellow Springs, OH. You can read the letters on the MGI website.

The Texas Supreme Court will decide the fate of Uplift Harris, the guaranteed income pilot in Harris County, where Houston is located, after State Attorney General Ken Paxton filed a lawsuit to stop the program. This is the first time a guaranteed income program in Texas has been attacked by the state, and it comes after Texas lawmakers tried and failed, twice, to pass legislation banning guaranteed income.

Austin and San Antonio have previously offered guaranteed income programs in Texas. Dallas is giving 500 residents making $14,000 per year a $250 check every month. El Paso County is set to roll out its own guaranteed income program later this year. No lawsuits have been filed against these programs.

Houston is the fourth largest city in the U.S., with a diverse population calling the city home. If effective, this lawsuit could serve as a model for opponents in other states to ban guaranteed income programs. Currently there are around 150 guaranteed income pilots operating in at least 27 states.

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Founded in June of 2020 by former Stockton Mayor Michael Tubbs, Mayors for a Guaranteed Income is a coalition of 150 mayors committed to advancing a federal guaranteed income – direct, recurring cash payments to middle and low-income people. Expanding to include city and county legislators in 2023 with Counties for a Guaranteed Income, the network acts as a research and resource hub for municipal pilots around the country–nearly 60 and counting. A new documentary film, It’s Basic, which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival in June 2023, follows recipients and illuminates the life-changing impact of guaranteed income programs on families’ economic security and opportunity.