

Housing Crisis

Congressman Mahoney is fighting to preserve the dream of homeownership for Floridians. Mahoney has co-sponsored and supported several pieces of fiscally responsible legislation supported by the Federal Reserve Chairman Bernanke that will help get our economy back on track.

The Pew Center on the States estimates that 1 in 26 Florida homeowners will face foreclosure in the coming years as a result of sub-prime mortgages and Florida is 1 of 6 states expected to experience the highest rates of foreclosures over the next two years. [Click here for more information on the Foreclosure Crisis in Florida](#)

Facing Foreclosure?

- HOPE for Homeowners Program

This program allows people to re-finance into an FHA mortgage if they are in danger of foreclosure and meet certain requirements. To learn more, please [click here](#) .

- Florida Attorney's Saving Homes (FLASH)

In an effort to assist Floridians fight back against the foreclosure crisis that has hit the state, The Florida Bar, The Florida Bar Foundation, Florida Legal Services Inc. and the Real Property Probate and Trust Law Section of The Florida Bar, have launched an effort called Florida Attorneys Saving Homes. A toll-free hot line (866-607-2187) has been set up and will take calls from 10 a.m. through 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Callers who fear that they soon won't be able to make their mortgage payments or who have already missed payments but are not yet in foreclosure are urged to call. For more information, [click here](#) .

Homeownership Preservation Foundation

If you are facing foreclosure on your home, free financial counseling is available at 1-888-995-HOPE. This 24-hour hotline is provided by the Homeownership Preservation Foundation, a nonprofit organization working with local governments, borrowers and lenders to assist residents faced with foreclosure.

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US Department of Housing and Urban Development

A list of local financial counseling agencies approved by the U.S. Department of

Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is also available at www.hud.gov or by calling 1-800-569-4287. Remember, if you risk foreclosure on your home, getting help early can mean the difference between keeping and losing your home.

Ten Tips for Avoiding Foreclosure

Useful information on refinancing (HUD)

Buying a new home

Nine steps to buying a new home (from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development).

HUD-approved housing counselors near you

Common questions from first-time home buyers

Other Useful Links:

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

HUD in Florida

Congressman Mahoney's Legislative Work to Address the Housing Crisis

Congressman Mahoney supported this legislation, comprised of several measures that will help families become first-time homebuyers, assist existing homeowners, help other families facing foreclosure keep their homes, and help stabilize property values in neighborhoods harmed by high foreclosure rates. As most Americans' primary investment is their home, ending the foreclosure crisis is vital to the American economy's recovery.

Congressman Mahoney spoke on the floor to support the American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act of 2008, which passed the House of Representatives on May 9, 2008. [Click Here to See Congressman Mahoney's Speech](#)

The measures include:

1) The Housing Assistance Tax Act of 2008: (H.R. 5720) Congressman Mahoney is an original co-sponsor of this legislation with Ways and Means Chairman Charles Rangel (NY), which provides:

- First time homebuyers with an interest free loan, up to \$7500, towards a home down-payment. Taxpayers would be required to repay any amount received under this provision to the government over 15 years in equal installments.
- Property tax relief for homeowners who claim the standard deduction by allowing them to claim an additional standard deduction of up to \$350 (\$700 for joint filers) for State and local real property taxes. This provision applies for 2008.
- Temporary increase in low-income housing tax credit and simplification of the credit. It increases the current limit of the credit from \$2.00 for each person residing in a state by an additional 20 cents per resident. This will help put builders to work to create new options for families seeking affordable housing alternatives.

2) The Neighborhood Stabilization Act of 2008: Congressman Mahoney is an original co-sponsor of this legislation, which would establish a \$15 billion, HUD administered loan and grant program for the purchase and rehabilitation of owner-vacated, foreclosed homes to stabilize neighborhoods in cities facing high foreclosure rates.

3) FHA Housing Stabilization and Homeownership Retention Act: (H.R. 5830) Congressman Mahoney has co-sponsored this legislation, which aims to expand the FHA program to help refinance at-risk borrowers into viable mortgages. Earlier in the week, the Financial Services Committee adopted Mahoney's amendment to this act, which will work to ensure that homeowners facing foreclosure receive counseling that could help them keep their homes.

4) Preserving the American Dream for Our Nation's Veterans: Mahoney supported this provision, which increases the Veterans Administration Home Loan limit in high-cost housing areas so that veterans have more homeownership opportunities and helps returning soldiers avoid foreclosure by lengthening the time a lender must wait before starting foreclosure.

5) Expanding American Homeownership Act of 2007: (H.R. 1852) Mahoney supported this legislation, which helps borrowers who have defaulted on high-interest predatory loans refinance into more affordable mortgages

6) Federal Housing Finance Reform Act (GSE): (H.R. 1427) Mahoney supported this legislation, which strengthens regulations of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and raises their loan limits to increase liquidity in the mortgage market. It also creates a new fund to boost the nation's stock of affordable rental housing

In addition to today's legislation, Congressman Mahoney has authored and supported the following legislative initiatives designed to stabilize the housing market and strengthen the economy, including:

- The Homeowners' Defense Act of 2007: Congressman Mahoney authored this innovative piece of legislation to address the growing crisis in the availability and affordability of homeowners insurance.

- Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly Act of 2007: Congressman Mahoney authored this legislation to help expand the supply of affordable housing for the elderly.

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