



By Congressman Ryan Mackenzie

Since the pandemic, housing affordability has emerged as one of the most important issues facing families across the Lehigh Valley and the Poconos.

This week, I welcomed Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Scott Turner to Bethlehem to highlight local projects and legislation that are helping expand our housing supply and lower costs over the long term.

During the Secretary's visit, we stopped by Brinker Lofts, a development made possible through a federal Opportunity Zone. These zones, which were created through the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, are placed in economically distressed neighborhoods and offer special tax benefits for businesses which invest in them. Through the Working Families Tax Cuts, which I helped to pass last year, we expanded opportunity zones and made them a permanent program, allowing more investments like this one to flow into communities that need them.

Later, we visited the site of the future Gateway on Fourth project, which will provide more than 100 mixed-income apartments. This project is supported by the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC), which I also helped to expand as part of the Working Families Tax Cuts. Because of this expansion, experts predict that over 1 million new affordable housing units will be built over the next decade. I was also happy to announce that we have successfully secured the inclusion of \$1 million for the Gateway on Fourth project in an upcoming appropriations bill.

I'll keep working to advance commonsense solutions that increase supply, encourage investment, and help make housing more affordable for working families. Read more [HERE](https://iqconnect.house.gov/iqextranet/iqClickTrk.asp?&cid=PA07RM&crop=15512.22440933.5283126.7680129&report_id=&redirect=https%3a%2f%2fmackenzie.house.gov%2fmedia%2fpress-releases%2fcongressman-mackenzie-secretary-turner-highlight-local-projects-wftc-0&redir_log=476296623716838) https://iqconnect.house.gov/iqextranet/iqClickTrk.asp?&cid=PA07RM&crop=15512.22440933.5283126.7680129&report_id=&redirect=https%3a%2f%2fmackenzie.house.gov%2fmedia%2fpress-releases%2fcongressman-mackenzie-secretary-turner-highlight-local-projects-wftc-0&redir_log=476296623716838.



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The Trump Accounts program is now officially live, giving eligible families access to a new long-term savings and investment account created through the Working Families Tax Cuts.

Eligible U.S. citizen children born between January 1, 2025, and December 31, 2028, will receive a one-time \$1,000 federal contribution to help begin building long-term financial security. Families can also make additional voluntary contributions over time, and many employers have already committed to contributing to eligible employees' children's accounts.

Parents and guardians can confirm eligibility, open an account, download the official app, and learn more about the program by visiting TrumpAccounts.gov. The app also allows families to monitor account balances, make contributions, set up recurring deposits, and access educational resources on saving and investing.

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