

House Engrossed

homelessness; urging congress; HUD

State of Arizona
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HOUSE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 2011

A CONCURRENT MEMORIAL

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS, DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN
DEVELOPMENT AND INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS TO ELIMINATE
RESTRICTIONS IN FEDERAL HOUSING PROGRAMS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 To the Congress, Department of Housing and Urban Development and
2 Interagency Council on Homelessness of the United States of America:

3 Your memorialist respectfully represents:

4 Whereas, the State of Arizona is committed to addressing
5 homelessness and housing insecurity by ensuring that housing policies and
6 programs are tailored to the unique needs of local communities and uphold
7 accountability; and

8 Whereas, the federal government has limited the flexibility of
9 states and local governments to adopt community-specific solutions to
10 homelessness and housing insecurity by imposing complex compliance
11 measures through its continuum of care interim rule; and

12 Whereas, the federally mandated homeless management information
13 system rule places an undue administrative burden on state and local
14 agencies that reduces their ability to focus on direct services to the
15 community due to the substantial data collection and reporting
16 requirements; and

17 Whereas, the federal requirements under the United States Department
18 of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) performance standards and
19 measures have incentivized a one-size-fits-all approach that may not
20 accurately reflect the unique challenges faced by diverse communities or
21 promote innovative, community-based approaches to reducing homelessness;
22 and

23 Whereas, federal policy mandates have limited the ability of local
24 service providers to offer a range of housing and service options, which
25 curbs flexibility and hinders efforts to support clients with varying
26 levels of need and readiness for permanent housing; and

27 Whereas, current federal standards under the Emergency Solutions
28 Grants Program restrict local agencies from using resources effectively,
29 often leading to misalignment with community-specific priorities and
30 reducing the impact of services provided to this state's most vulnerable
31 populations; and

32 Whereas, the McKinney-Vento Act Amendments of 2009 have resulted in
33 a proliferation of federal mandates that limit Arizona's ability to adapt
34 its approach to the needs of diverse populations experiencing
35 homelessness; and

36 Whereas, Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), while essential for
37 many individuals, should not be the sole or primary solution for all
38 people experiencing homelessness, and excessive reliance on federal PSH
39 standards has constrained this state's capacity to develop diverse housing
40 solutions and funding structures; and

41 Whereas, block grant funding would allow Arizona to better leverage
42 HUD assistance by granting this state more discretion over the allocation
43 of monies, enabling local agencies to design programs tailored to the
44 specific needs of Arizona's homeless and housing-insecure populations.

45 Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of

1 Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

2 1. That the United States Department of Housing and Urban
3 Development (HUD) and the United States Interagency Council on
4 Homelessness:

5 (a) Repeal the continuum of care interim rule to provide more
6 flexibility for state and local governments to design housing solutions
7 that are responsive to local conditions.

8 (b) Amend the homeless management information system rule to
9 streamline reporting requirements, reduce administrative burdens and allow
10 providers to direct more resources toward client services.

11 (c) Eliminate HUD's performance standards and measures to allow
12 local governments and agencies the freedom to set performance indicators
13 that more accurately reflect community needs and goals.

14 (d) Rescind housing-first policy mandates to permit flexibility for
15 communities to offer a variety of housing options that meet the diverse
16 needs and preferences of individuals and families experiencing
17 homelessness.

18 (e) Reduce federal standards in the Emergency Solutions Grants
19 Program to better align with local priorities, ensuring that resources are
20 effectively allocated to maximize community impact.

21 2. That Congress:

22 (a) Repeal the McKinney-Vento Act Amendments of 2009 to decrease
23 restrictive federal mandates and increase state autonomy in addressing
24 homelessness.

25 (b) Reduce HUD's role in Permanent Supportive Housing to allow
26 local agencies more freedom in implementing supportive housing options
27 tailored to their specific populations.

28 (c) Shift HUD funding to block grants rather than direct assistance
29 to enable states to have greater flexibility in allocating monies to the
30 areas of greatest need, which allows for a more effective response to
31 homelessness.

32 3. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit
33 copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the
34 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, each Member of
35 Congress from the State of Arizona, the Secretary of the United States
36 Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Executive Director of
37 the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness.