

By: Senator B. Johnson

## SENATE RESOLUTION

TO URGE THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND  
URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE UNITED STATES INTERAGENCY  
COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS TO TAKE CERTAIN ACTIONS.

### Subtitle

TO URGE THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF  
HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE  
UNITED STATES INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON  
HOMELESSNESS TO TAKE CERTAIN ACTIONS.

WHEREAS, the State of Arkansas is committed to addressing homelessness and housing insecurity by ensuring that housing policies and programs are tailored to the unique needs of local communities and by upholding accountability; and

WHEREAS, the United States Government has limited the flexibility of states and local governments to adopt community-specific solutions to homelessness and housing insecurity by imposing complex compliance measures through its Continuum of Care Interim Rule; and

WHEREAS, the federally mandated Homeless Management Information System places an undue administrative burden on state and local agencies that reduces the ability of state and local agencies to focus on direct services to the community due to the substantial data collection and reporting requirements; and

WHEREAS, the federal requirements under the United States Department of



Housing and Urban Development's Performance Standards and Measures have incentivized a one-size-fits-all approach that may not accurately reflect the unique challenges faced by diverse communities or promote innovative, community-based approaches to reducing homelessness; and

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

WHEREAS, current federal standards under the Emergency Solutions Grant Program restrict local agencies from utilizing resources effectively, often leading to misalignment with community-specific priorities and reducing the impact of services provided to some of Arkansas's most vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS, the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act amendments of 2009 have resulted in a proliferation of federal mandates that limit Arkansas's ability to adapt its approach to the needs of diverse populations experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, Permanent Supportive Housing, while essential for many individuals, should not be the sole or primary solution for all experiencing homelessness, and excessive reliance on Permanent Supportive Housing standards has constrained Arkansas's capacity to develop diverse housing solutions and funding structures; and

WHEREAS, block grant funding would allow Arkansas to better leverage United States Department of Housing and Urban Development assistance by granting the state more discretion over the allocation of funds, enabling local agencies to design programs tailored to the specific needs of Arkansas's homeless and housing-insecure populations,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the Senate calls upon the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness to:

(1) Repeal the Continuum of Care Interim Rule to provide more flexibility for state and local governments to design housing solutions that are responsive to local conditions;

(2) Amend the Homeless Management Information System to streamline reporting requirements, reduce administrative burdens, and allow providers to direct more resources toward client services;

(3) Eliminate the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development performance standards and measures, allowing local governments and agencies the freedom to set performance indicators that more accurately reflect community needs and goals;

(4) Rescind Housing First policy mandates to permit flexibility for communities to offer a variety of housing options that meet the diverse needs and preferences of individuals and families experiencing homelessness;

(5) Reduce federal standards in the Emergency Solutions Grant Program to better align with local priorities, ensuring resources are effectively allocated to maximize community impact;

(6) Repeal the McKinney-Vento Act amendments of 2009 to decrease restrictive federal mandates and increase state autonomy in addressing homelessness;

(7) Reduce the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's role in Permanent Supportive Housing to allow local agencies more freedom in implementing supportive housing options tailored to their specific populations; and

(8) Shift United States Department of Housing and Urban Development funding to block grants rather than direct assistance to enable states to have greater flexibility in allocating funds to areas of greatest need, allowing for a more effective response to homelessness in Arkansas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, a copy be provided to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, each member of the Arkansas congressional delegation, and the Governor, urging their support for

these changes to strengthen housing programs and better serve those experiencing homelessness in Arkansas.