
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4009

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2005 Regular Session

By Representatives Ormsby, Dunn, Miloscia, Jarrett, Pettigrew, Flannigan, Springer, Morrell, Sells, O'Brien, Conway, Priest, Simpson, Kagi, Darneille, Lantz, Kenney, Clibborn, Cody, Schual-Berke, Chase, Hasegawa and Wood

Read first time 02/02/2005. Referred to Committee on Housing.

1 TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
2 AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND THE SECRETARY OF THE UNITED
5 STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT:

6 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
7 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
8 represent and petition as follows:

9 WHEREAS, Affordable, safe, and sanitary housing is vital to the
10 quality of life for individuals, families, and communities throughout
11 the United States. It is also a necessary component of a healthy
12 economy. In Washington there is an upward trend in the number of
13 people unable to afford safe and sanitary housing and facing
14 homelessness. Although state and federal funds have been appropriated
15 to provide safe, sanitary, and affordable housing in our state and
16 nationally, it remains a pervasive and persistent issue in rural,
17 suburban, and urban communities across Washington, east of the Cascade
18 Mountains as well as west, touching working people as well as the
19 unemployed, and affecting families with children as well as individual
20 adults and youth; and

1 WHEREAS, The Section 8 program, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1437f, provides
2 funds for rental subsidies for qualified low-income households in
3 Washington and throughout the nation and is one of the best models of
4 public-private partnerships. The goal of the Section 8 program is to
5 make rental housing, both private and public, more affordable to low-
6 income people. By making the rental housing more affordable, Section
7 8 funds benefit the states and their communities, in general, and
8 property owners and low-income individuals and families, in particular;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Two-thirds of the housing authorities in Washington which
11 administer Section 8 vouchers have already had to close their Section
12 8 waiting lists because of the huge number of people already on the
13 lists. Those on the lists already face a wait of eighteen months to
14 five years for Section 8 rental assistance. This state saw a dramatic
15 decrease from 2003 to 2004 in the number of Section 8 vouchers and the
16 amount of Section 8 assistance available. Based on information
17 provided by the United States Department of Housing and Urban
18 Development in January of 2005, it is projected that Washington will
19 lose funding for an additional 2,169 Section 8 vouchers in calendar
20 year 2005, which translates into a loss of approximately \$14,802,474 in
21 housing assistance payments to landlords. Reductions to Section 8
22 funding in calendar year 2005 will inevitably result in an increase in
23 the number of people that are homeless or live in unsafe and unsanitary
24 housing. These changes and reductions will also severely challenge
25 private landlords who are anxious to partner with the public and rent
26 their housing stock, but who are financially unable to shoulder the
27 burden of a Section 8 budgeting process which does not take into
28 account market forces;

29 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the number
30 of Section 8 vouchers and the Section 8 funding levels and formulas be
31 maintained as provided in Public Law 108-7, Independent Agencies, VA,
32 and HUD Appropriations for 2003 as part of the 2003 Omnibus Bill.

33 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
34 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United
35 States, the Secretary of the United States Department of Housing and
36 Urban Development, the President of the United States Senate, the

1 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress
2 from the State of Washington.

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