

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025

SR 64

4
5 By: Senator B. Johnson

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8 **SENATE RESOLUTION**

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

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14 **Subtitle**

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

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

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

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

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36 WHEREAS, the federal requirements under the United States Department of



1 Housing and Urban Development's Performance Standards and Measures have
2 incentivized a one-size-fits-all approach that may not accurately reflect the
3 unique challenges faced by diverse communities or promote innovative,
4 community-based approaches to reducing homelessness; and
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6 WHEREAS, federal policy mandates have limited the ability of local
7 service providers to offer a range of housing and service options, which
8 curbs flexibility and hinders efforts to support clients with varying levels
9 of need and readiness for permanent housing; and
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11 WHEREAS, current federal standards under the Emergency Solutions Grant
12 Program restrict local agencies from utilizing resources effectively, often
13 leading to misalignment with community-specific priorities and reducing the
14 impact of services provided to some of Arkansas's most vulnerable
15 populations; and
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17 WHEREAS, the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act amendments of 2009
18 have resulted in a proliferation of federal mandates that limit Arkansas's
19 ability to adapt its approach to the needs of diverse populations
20 experiencing homelessness; and
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22 WHEREAS, Permanent Supportive Housing, while essential for many
23 individuals, should not be the sole or primary solution for all experiencing
24 homelessness, and excessive reliance on Permanent Supportive Housing
25 standards has constrained Arkansas's capacity to develop diverse housing
26 solutions and funding structures; and
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28 WHEREAS, block grant funding would allow Arkansas to better leverage
29 United States Department of Housing and Urban Development assistance by
30 granting the state more discretion over the allocation of funds, enabling
31 local agencies to design programs tailored to the specific needs of
32 Arkansas's homeless and housing-insecure populations,
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34 NOW THEREFORE,

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

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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

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

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