
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4019

State of Washington **59th Legislature** **2005 Regular Session**

By Representatives Holmquist, McCune, Schindler, Dunn, McDonald, Buri, Hinkle, Kretz, Serben and Santos

Read first time 02/17/2005. 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 TO THE SECRETARY OF THE
5 UNITED 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; and

13 WHEREAS, Owning one's home has long been considered a part of the
14 "American Dream"; and

15 WHEREAS, The cost of owning a home in Washington has dramatically
16 increased due to a lack of available land, mandatory impact fees, and
17 increased construction costs to the level that the median price of some
18 new single-family homes rose by 29% during the first nine months of
19 2004; and

1 WHEREAS, In the 2000 Census, Washington homeownership among White
2 householders was more than 67%, higher than the rate of 41% for
3 Hispanics; however, less than 38% of Black householders were found to
4 own their own home; and

5 WHEREAS, It is the priority of the United States Department of
6 Housing and Urban Development to add 5.5 million minority homeowners by
7 the end of the decade with funding increases in programs for low-income
8 Americans; and

9 WHEREAS, Congress has appropriated a \$113 million increase in the
10 HOME Investment Partnerships Program - allowing local governments to
11 encourage the production of affordable housing in communities
12 nationwide; an additional \$10 million to provide counseling services to
13 Americans who wish to become homeowners; and \$200 million for the
14 American Dream Downpayment Initiative to help an estimated 40,000
15 low-income families a year become first-time homeowners; and

16 WHEREAS, Congress has been able to increase funding of the Housing
17 Choice Vouchers program, also known as Section 8, from \$12.7 billion in
18 2003 to \$14.5 billion in 2004 and \$14.8 billion for year 2005. Funding
19 for the rental assistance program, which currently assists
20 approximately 2 million low-income families nationwide, has increased
21 by \$3.5 billion or 30% since 2001; and

22 WHEREAS, The department's comprehensive plan to end chronic
23 homelessness is the largest total award of federal funds for homeless
24 assistance in history - more than \$1.4 billion is being awarded to an
25 unprecedented number of projects nationally totaling more than 4,400;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, This is also the fourth consecutive year funding for
28 homeless assistance has increased to record levels; and

29 WHEREAS, The department will continue to strengthen the capacity of
30 Faith-Based and Community Organizations by reducing unnecessary
31 regulatory barriers and expanding their ability to act with compassion
32 toward families and individuals in need;

33 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists recognize the role of the United
34 States Department of Housing and Urban Development for effective
35 policies in augmenting home ownership of Washington families and
36 impacting the economic vitality of Washington State.

37 BE IT RESOLVED, That your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
38 United States Department of Housing and Urban Development continue to

1 streamline affordable housing programs to better serve the citizens of
2 the United States and the State of Washington thereby improving the
3 quality of life of individuals, families, and communities; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
5 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United
6 States, the Secretary of the United States Department of Housing and
7 Urban Development, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the
8 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
9 Washington.

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