

1 **Concurrent Resolution Urging Changes to Federal Homelessness Regulations**

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Tyler Clancy

Senate Sponsor: Heidi Balderree

3 **LONG TITLE**

4 **General Description:**

5 This resolution urges federal government housing and homelessness agencies to implement
6 reforms to housing assistant programs.

7 **Highlighted Provisions:**

8 This resolution:

- 9 ▶ urges the Department of Housing and Urban Development to implement reforms to
10 certain federal housing assistant programs;
- 11 ▶ recognizes that:
- 12 • state and local governments seek to fund and implement programs that are more
13 effective than the current alternatives to reduce the number of people living on the
14 street and include approaches and strategies that are more responsive to local
15 priorities and circumstances;
 - 16 • the Homeless Management Information System is costly, burdensome, and fails to
17 meet the information and data needs of state and local governments; and
 - 18 • block grant funding provides the state with needed discretion on how to use federal
19 funding for direct services to the state's homeless population;
- 20 ▶ calls on the federal government to reform certain agency rules and federal laws to provide
21 state and local governments greater latitude in administering homelessness; and
- 22 ▶ provides for copies of the resolution to be distributed among certain federal agencies and
23 other individuals.

24 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

25 None

26 **Other Special Clauses:**

27 None

29 *Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:*

30 WHEREAS, the state of Utah is committed to addressing homelessness and housing

31 insecurity by ensuring that housing policies and programs are built around effective strategies
32 that reduce the number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness;

33 WHEREAS, the federal government has limited the flexibility of states and local
34 governments with complex compliance measures through the federal government's Continuum
35 of Care Program Interim Rule (Rule), 24 C.F.R. Part 578;

36 WHEREAS, the federally mandated Homeless Management Information System Rule
37 (HMIS), 24 C.F.R. Sect. 578.57, places an undue administrative burden on state and local
38 agencies that reduces the ability for state and local agencies to focus on direct services to the
39 community due to the substantial data collection and reporting requirements;

40 WHEREAS, the federal requirements under the Department of Housing and Urban
41 Development's (HUD) Performance Standards and Measures have incentivized a
42 one-size-fits-all approach that may not accurately reflect the unique challenges faced by
43 diverse communities or promote innovative, community-based approaches to reducing
44 homelessness;

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

48 WHEREAS, Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), while essential for many individuals,
49 should not be the sole or primary solution for all experiencing homelessness, and excessive
50 reliance on federal PSH standards has constrained Utah's capacity to develop diverse housing,
51 effective programs, and funding structures; and

52 WHEREAS, block grant funding would provide Utah with tools to better leverage HUD
53 assistance by granting the state more discretion over the allocation of funds, enabling local
54 agencies to design more effective programs tailored to the specific needs of Utah's homeless
55 and housing-insecure populations:

56 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the
57 Governor concurring therein, call upon HUD and the United States Interagency Council on
58 Homelessness to:

- 59 (1) grant the state of Utah a waiver of the Rule to provide more flexibility for state and
60 local governments to design housing solutions that are responsive to local conditions,
61 including:
- 62 (a) sober living;
 - 63 (b) adult residential facilities; and
 - 64 (c) step-down facilities for people with mental illness that need additional assistance

- 65 after an emergency mental health hold;
- 66 (2) amend the HMIS Rule to streamline reporting requirements, reduce administrative
67 burdens, and allow providers to direct more resources toward client services;
- 68 (3) grant the state a waiver that would allow the state of Utah to replace HUD system
69 performance measures with state outcomes and measures to provide local governments
70 and agencies the freedom to set performance indicators that more accurately reflect
71 community needs and goals;
- 72 (4) rescind housing first policy mandates to permit flexibility for communities to offer a
73 variety of housing options that meet the diverse needs and preferences of individuals and
74 families experiencing homelessness, including:
- 75 (a) sobriety;
- 76 (b) goal-setting; and
- 77 (c) accountability;
- 78 (5) reduce federal standards in the Emergency Solutions Grants Program, 24 C.F.R. Part
79 576, to better align with local priorities, ensuring resources are effectively allocated to
80 maximize community impact;
- 81 (6) reduce HUD's role in PSH to provide local agencies more freedom in implementing
82 supportive housing options tailored to the local agencies' specific populations; and
- 83 (7) shift HUD funding to block grants rather than direct assistance to enable states to have
84 greater flexibility in allocating funds to areas of greatest need, allowing for a more
85 effective response to homelessness in the state of Utah.

86 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to HUD, the
87 United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, each member of Utah's federal
88 congressional delegation, and the Governor of Utah, urging support for these changes to
89 strengthen housing programs and better serve those experiencing homelessness in the
90 state of Utah.