

House Concurrent Resolution No. 5004

By Representative Myers
(By Request)

1-10

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the expansion and development of housing assistance programs in the Department of Commerce and Housing to provide universal housing opportunities for all Kansans and urging the creation of incentives to promote the construction of universally designed housing.

WHEREAS, Demographically, the population of the United States is growing older; according to the United States Bureau of the Census, nationally there are almost 34,000,000 Americans aged 65 and over, roughly 12% of all Americans; the elderly population increased eleven-fold from 1900 to 1994, while the nonelderly increased only three-fold; if Census Bureau predictions prove accurate, the American population will increase by almost 50% from 1995 to 2050, while the 65 and over age group will increase by 135%; and

WHEREAS, In Kansas, the aging trend is more pronounced; according to 1990 census statistics, nearly 15% of Kansans were age 65 or older; in addition, among the fifty states, Kansas has the fifth highest percentage of citizens aged 85 and over; according to the Kansas Division of the Budget, the number of the state's citizens aged 85 or more will double in the next 10 years; and

WHEREAS, A significant number of elderly Kansans live in rural areas; according to the United States Department of Agriculture, 35% of Kansans aged 65 and over lived in communities with a population of less than 2,500; and

WHEREAS, Many of the elderly live on fixed incomes; Social Security was the major source of income for older couples and individuals in 1992, providing 40% of the total household income and providing at least half of the total income for 63% of beneficiaries in 1992. The median income of older persons in 1995 was \$16,684 for males and \$9,626 for females and more than half of all elderly persons over age 75 who lived alone had incomes below \$10,000 in 1992 and 86% had incomes below \$20,000; and

WHEREAS, The Governor's 1999 Housing Task Force identified many deficiencies in the state's housing inventory noting a critical lack of

1 affordable housing and a genuine deficiency of housing of any nature in
2 rural areas; and

3 WHEREAS, Growth in the elderly population has outpaced growth in
4 the supply of nursing home beds. While the supply of nursing home beds
5 for people 75 years and over dropped 17% from 1987 to 1996, functional
6 disability has increased. While almost 72% of 1987 nursing home resi-
7 dents needed help with three or more activities of daily living 83% of
8 such residents needed assistance in 1996; and

9 WHEREAS, Living in their own homes enables the elderly to maintain
10 their independence, with security, comfort and dignity, while at the same
11 time reducing the demand for institutional bed space; and

12 WHEREAS, Universal design is the design of products and environ-
13 ments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without
14 the need for adaptation or specialized design. The intent of universal
15 design is to simplify life for everyone by making products, communica-
16 tions, and the built environment more usable by as many people as pos-
17 sible at little or no extra cost: Now, therefore,

18 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas,*
19 *the Senate concurring therein:* That existing housing assistance pro-
20 grams of the Department of Commerce and Housing, including the State
21 Housing Trust Fund, interim development loans and private activity
22 bonds, be expanded in an effort to increase the state's housing inventory;
23 and

24 *Be it further resolved:* That additional housing assistance programs of
25 the Department of Commerce and Housing, including the Homeowner
26 Emergency Rehabilitation Opportunities (HERO) Program, the Hom-
27 eowner Rehabilitation of Existing Property Program and the Weatheri-
28 zation Assistance Program, be expanded and that additional strategies and
29 programs be developed and implemented to provide universal housing
30 opportunities for all Kansans to meet the increasing demand for such
31 housing due to demographic shifts; and

32 *Be it further resolved:* That the Kansas Legislature be urged to create
33 monetary incentives to promote the development of universally designed
34 homes and that the restrictions placed on the adaptive housing tax credit
35 contained in K.S.A. 79-32,175 with respect to level of income and hand-
36 icapped occupancy be eliminated.

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