

Date of Hearing: August 8, 2018

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

David Chiu, Chair

AJR 43 (Bloom) – As Introduced June 18, 2018

SUBJECT: Housing

SUMMARY: Calls upon the President of the United States and the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to honor their pledges to protect rental assistance programs, to veto any legislation that undermines those programs, and to work with the Congress to further protect rental assistance programs and the mission of HUD to "ensure that Americans have access to fair, affordable housing and opportunities to achieve self-sufficiency, thereby strengthening our communities and nation." Specifically, **this bill:**

1) Makes the following legislative findings:

- a) Our nation and state are facing a dramatic affordable housing crisis. This crisis affects our great State of California to the degree that 97.6 percent of cities and counties have failed to approve necessary housing development needed to maintain the population growth;
- b) Cities and towns, large and small, are having larger and larger numbers of families, single people, and seniors experiencing homelessness at levels never seen in our history. This crisis has grown to include over 55,000 people who are homeless in Los Angeles County, over 9,000 people who are homeless in San Diego County, and in our capital, Sacramento, a total of over 3,600 people experience this state and national epidemic;
- c) HUD Secretary Ben Carson introduced the Making Affordable Housing Work Act of 2018, a proposed bill that could force the poorest tenants receiving federal aid—those most likely on the edge of homelessness—to pay three times as much in rent. It would also shrink the rent subsidies received by other low-income Americans, leaving them with less money for food, medical expenses, and education. Additionally, it would allow local public housing authorities to impose work requirements on people receiving housing assistance;
- d) The Making Affordable Housing Work Act of 2018 would have a direct impact on those receiving subsidies by increasing their monthly commitment for these federal subsidies from 30 percent of their total net income to 35 percent of their total gross income, which would unfairly impact working families and those with medical conditions, and by requiring those receiving subsidies to work for a minimum of 15 hours a week at federal minimum wage;
- e) After six years, the Making Affordable Housing Work Act of 2018, would also impose an increase of \$50 monthly on the disabled and elderly, those who often require the largest share of assistance;

- f) Currently, over 300,000 Californians benefit from the federal housing choice voucher subsidies and over 97,000 Californians benefit from the federal project-based Section 8 housing subsidies;
 - g) For every household in California that receives housing assistance, over three times more low-income households are homeless or pay more than one-half of their income for rent;
 - h) Forty-two percent of federal rental assistance helps the elderly, who without this assistance would likely be on the streets;
 - i) These programs began through the federal Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, which were aimed at enhancing communities and establishing healthy and vibrant communities;
 - j) These programs are the hallmark of a vital safety net which protects over 600,000 people in Los Angeles who are considered “severely rent burdened”; and
 - k) These are vital programs which protect the interests of families, the elderly, and veterans in our society from being one step away from homelessness.
- 2) Resolves that the Legislature opposes cuts to these vital programs created by the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 and calls on our state Congressional Representatives to voice their concerns over these proposed cuts.

FISCAL EFFECT: None.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file.

Opposition

None on file.

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