

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 140**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 7, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator ANTHONY M. BUCCO

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

Urges U.S. Secretary for Housing and Urban Development to prioritize transitional housing for homeless individuals and families, including survivors of domestic violence.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** urging the United States Secretary for
2 Housing and Urban Development to prioritize transitional housing
3 for homeless individuals and families, including survivors of
4 domestic violence.

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6 **WHEREAS**, Homelessness is defined as any individual or family
7 who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; is in
8 imminent risk of losing their primary nighttime residence; is
9 considered homeless under federal statutes; or is fleeing or
10 attempting to flee domestic violence (DV); and

11 **WHEREAS**, DV is defined as violent or aggressive behavior within
12 the home, usually perpetrated by the violent abuse of a spouse or
13 partner; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Those who have experienced DV often face long-term
15 physical and mental health issues stemming from their abuse; and

16 **WHEREAS**, Finding new housing provides a pathway for victims
17 of DV to escape their abusers, many often encounter financial
18 barriers that prevent them from obtaining or maintaining safe and
19 affordable permanent housing; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Most emergency shelters do not allow homeless
21 individuals and families, including those fleeing DV, to stay for more
22 than 90 days; and

23 **WHEREAS**, More than half of DV victims who identified a need
24 for housing services did not receive them; and

25 **WHEREAS**, Transitional housing programs provide safe harbor for
26 homeless individuals and families, with housing for up to 24 months
27 and support services that include financial education, life skills
28 training, counseling, employment, and housing assistance; and

29 **WHEREAS**, Transitional housing is particularly important to DV
30 victims, who need the time and support that transitional housing
31 provides in order to obtain and maintain permanent affordable
32 housing; and

33 **WHEREAS**, The coronavirus 2019 pandemic has further
34 exacerbated the struggle that homeless individuals and families face
35 in obtaining and maintaining stable housing, especially in high-rent
36 communities where other forms of short-term rental assistance are
37 inadequate for long term stability; now, therefore:

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39 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the
40 General Assembly concurring):

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42 1. The Legislature of the State of New Jersey urges the United
43 States Secretary for Housing and Urban Development to prioritize
44 transitional housing for homeless individuals and families, including
45 those fleeing domestic violence.

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47 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
48 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or the

1 Secretary of the Senate to the Secretary of the United States
2 Department of Housing and Urban Development.

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STATEMENT

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7 This resolution urges the United States Secretary for Housing and
8 Urban Development to prioritize transitional housing for homeless
9 individuals and families, including survivors of domestic violence
10 (DV).

11 Homelessness presents a variety of needs and challenges, and for
12 many, time and support is needed to obtain and maintain permanent
13 and affordable housing. For victims of DV, who often face physical
14 and mental health issues stemming from their abuse, financial
15 barriers often prevent them from obtaining such housing.

16 Transitional housing programs allow homeless households,
17 including those who have fled DV, up to 24 months of safe housing
18 and supportive services that include financial education, life skills
19 training, counseling, employment support, and housing assistance.
20 Transitional housing is particularly important for DV victims, who
21 need time and support in order to obtain and maintain permanent
22 affordable housing.

23 Over the past year, the coronavirus 2019 pandemic (COVID-19)
24 has further exacerbated the need for transitional housing programs,
25 with millions of Americans crippled with unemployment,
26 underemployment, and uncertainty. In high-rent communities,
27 homeless households recovering from the financial impacts of
28 COVID-19 will need time to regain employment, locate suitable
29 childcare, pay off debts and repair credit, before they will be able to
30 obtain new housing. Transitional housing programs are equipped to
31 provide the time and resources that it will take to get households back
32 on their feet permanently.

33 Urging the Secretary for Housing and Urban Development to
34 prioritize transitional housing can provide homeless individuals and
35 families, including survivors of DV, with the opportunity to achieve
36 financial self-sufficiency and safe, permanent housing.