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2^D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 137

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 25, 2010

Received and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban
Affairs

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress that the lack of adequate housing must be addressed as a barrier to effective HIV prevention, treatment, and care, and that the United States should make a commitment to providing adequate funding for developing housing as a response to the AIDS pandemic.

Whereas adequate and secure housing for people with human immunodeficiency virus or acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) is a challenge with global dimensions and adequate housing is one of the greatest unmet needs of persons in the United States with HIV/AIDS;

Whereas growing empirical evidence shows that the socio-economic circumstances of individuals and groups

and structural factors such as housing status are of equal importance, or even greater importance, to health status than medical care and personal health behaviors;

Whereas the link between poverty and disparities in HIV risk and health outcomes is well established, and new research findings demonstrate the direct relationship between inadequate housing and greater risk of HIV infection, poor health outcomes, and early death;

Whereas rates of HIV infection are 3 to 16 times higher among persons who are homeless or unstably housed, 70 percent of all persons living with HIV/AIDS report a lifetime experience of homelessness or housing instability, and the HIV/AIDS death rate is 7 to 9 times higher for homeless adults than for the general population;

Whereas poor living conditions, including overcrowding and homelessness, undermine safety, privacy, and efforts to promote self-respect, human dignity, and responsible sexual behavior;

Whereas homeless and unstably housed persons are 2 to 6 times more likely to use hard drugs, share needles, or exchange sex for money and housing than similar persons with stable housing, as the lack of stable housing directly impacts the ability of people living in poverty to reduce HIV risk behaviors;

Whereas in spite of the evidence indicating that adequate housing has a direct positive effect on HIV prevention, treatment, and health outcomes, the housing resources devoted to the national response to HIV/AIDS have been inadequate and housing has been largely ignored in policy discussions at the international level; and

