

Exploration of S.1801 Community Partnership to End Homelessness Act of 2005 (The Reed Bill)

Hosted by the Regional Steering Committee on Housing and Homelessness (RSC)

Status of the Reed Bill

The Community Partnership to End Homelessness Act of 2005 (S.1801) was introduced by Senator Jack Reed [D-RI] on September 29, 2005. With the support of 13 co-sponsors, the Act was read twice and then referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. On December 13, 2005, a fourteenth co-sponsor was added. S.1801 would reauthorize the McKinney-Vento Act, and would make major amendments to the Act. Some of the major changes proposed are those in Title IV, the title that authorizes all HUD homeless housing programs. If enacted, this Act would take effect within 6 months of enactment.

The following is the list of current co-sponsors of S.1801, their party affiliation and state, date each became a co-sponsor of the bill, and membership on pertinent Senate committees:

Sen. Reed, Jack [D-RI] – introduced bill on 9/29/2005 (Ranking Member of Housing Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs)

Sen. Akaka, Daniel K. [D-HI] – 9/29/2005

Sen. Allard, Wayne [R-CO] – 9/29/2005 (Chair of the Housing Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, Member of the Committee on Appropriations)

Sen. Bond, Christopher S. [R-MO] – 9/29/2005 (Chair of the Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Appropriations)

Sen. Chafee, Lincoln [R-RI] – 9/29/2005

Sen. Clinton, Hillary Rodham [D-NY] – 9/29/2005

Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME] – 9/29/2005

Sen. Corzine, Jon S. [D-NJ] – 9/29/2005

Sen. Dodd, Christopher J. [D-CT] – 9/29/2005 (Member of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs)

Sen. Hagel, Chuck [R-NE] – 12/13/2005

Sen. Landrieu, Mary L. [D-LA] – 9/29/2005 (Member of the Senate Committee on Appropriations)

Sen. Mikulski, Barbara A. [D-MD] – 9/29/2005 (Member of the Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Appropriations)

Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA] – 9/29/2005

Sen. Sarbanes, Paul S. [D-MD] – 9/29/2005 (Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee)

Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY] – 9/29/2005 (Member of the Housing Subcommittee of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs)

Positions of Advocacy Groups to Date

Various national advocacy groups, local advocacy groups, and others are developing written positions to advocate to Reed's staff directly, or via national advocacy groups regarding the Reed Bill. The two written public positions to date have been posted by the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) and a joint statement by the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) and the National Coalition on Homelessness (NCH). Summaries of positions are below and full statements are attached.

Corporation for Supportive Housing:

CSH applauds S.1801 as a sound approach to reauthorizing the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. In support of its position, CSH points to S.1801's consolidation of the prior Act's programs and codification of the Continuum of Care approach for fund application, preventing block grants of the funds. CSH also states that S.1801's non-competitive renewal of rent/operating subsidies and a codified 30% permanent housing set-aside ensure financially stable permanent housing funds and continued creation of new permanent supportive housing for families and individuals least likely to escape homelessness without it. Furthermore, CSH commends S.1801 for greater acknowledgment of the need for intervention and the particular needs of homeless subpopulations. Finally, CSH supports S.1801's call for \$1.6 billion funding in fiscal year 2006.

NAEH and NCH:

On November 10, 2005, NAEH and NCH wrote a letter to Senator Reed expressing joint support for S.1801. In particular, NAEH and NCH are in support of the provision allowing, for the first time, McKinney-Vento funds to be used for permanent housing for people without disabilities, including families with children. NAEH and NCH also support S.1801's requirement that at least 30% of the funding be used for permanent housing for people with disabilities. Finally, NAEH and NCH request that Senator Reed include a provision requiring at least 10% of funds be allocated each year for permanent housing for people without disabilities. As an aside, NAEH and NCH expressed to Senator Reed their belief that Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data should not be used as a basis for distribution of funds until HMIS achieves a much higher rate of coverage.