

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet on Thursday, November 17, 2005, at 10 a.m. in Room 216 of the Hart Senate Office Building to conduct an oversight hearing on the In Re Tribal Lobbying Matters, et al.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a markup on Thursday, November 17, 2005 at 9:30 a.m. in Senate Dirksen Office Building Room 226.

Agenda

I. Nominations

Joseph Frank Bianco, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of New York; Timothy Mark Burgess, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Alaska; Gregory F. Van Tatenhove, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky; Eric Nicholas Vitaliano, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of New York; James O'Gara, to be Deputy Director for Supply Reduction, Office of National Drug Control Policy; Emilio Gonzalez, to be Director of the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security; Catherine Lucille Hanaway, to be U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri; Carol E. Dinkins, to be Chairman of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board; Alan Charles Raul, to be Vice Chairman of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board.

II. Bills

S. 1088, Streamlined Procedures Act of 2005, Kyl, Cornyn, Grassley, Hatch;

S. 1789, Personal Data Privacy and Security Act of 2005, Specter, Leahy, Feinstein, Feingold;

S. 751, Notification of Risk to Personal Data Act, Feinstein, Kyl;

H.R. 683, Trademark Dilution Revision Act of 2005, Smith-TX;

S. 1967, A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to certain activities of the Secret Service, and for other purposes, Specter;

S. 1961, Extending the Child Safety Pilot Program Act of 2005, Biden, Hatch, Cornyn;

S. 1354, Wartime Treatment Study Act, Feingold, Grassley, Kennedy;

S. —, Comprehensive Immigration Reform, Chairman's Mark.

III. Matters

S.J. Res. 1, Marriage Protection Amendment, Allard, Sessions, Kyl, Hatch, Cornyn, Coburn, Brownback.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

mittee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on "Recent Developments in Assessing Future Asbestos Claims Under the FAIR Act" on Thursday, November 17, 2005 at 2 p.m. in the Dirksen Senate Office Building Room 226.

Panel I: Douglas Holtz-Eakin, Ph.D., Director, Congressional Budget Office, Washington, DC.

Panel II: Charles Bates, Ph.D., Chairman, Bates White LLC, Washington, DC; Laura Welch, M.D., Medical Director, Center to Protect Workers Rights, Washington, DC; Mark Peterson, Ph.D., President, Legal Analysis Systems, Thousand Oaks, CA; Mark Lederer, Chief Financial Officer, Claims Resolution Management Corporation (aka The Manville Trust), Katonah, NY; Denise Martin, Ph.D., Sr. Vice President, National Economic Research Associates, New York, NY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 17, 2005 at 10:30 a.m. to hold a closed hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 17, 2005 at 2:30 p.m. to hold a closed business meeting.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on African Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 17, 2005, at 2:30 p.m. to hold a hearing on African Organizations and Institutions: Cross-Continental Progress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Aviation be authorized to meet on Thursday, November 17, 2005, at 10 a.m., on Aviation Safety.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Priya Narasimhan be granted the privilege of the floor during votes and throughout the debate today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEETING THE HOUSING AND SERVICE NEEDS OF SENIORS ACT OF 2005

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, for the leader I have a unanimous consent

request that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 285, S. 705.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 705) to establish the Interagency Council on Meeting the Housing and Service Needs of Seniors, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, with an amendment, as follows:

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic.]

S. 705

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

[SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.]

[This Act may be cited as the "Meeting the Housing and Service Needs of Seniors Act of 2005".]

[SEC. 2. FINDINGS.]

[Congress finds the following:

[(1) The senior population (persons 65 or older) in this country is rapidly growing, and is expected to increase from 34,700,000 in 2000 to nearly 40,000,000 by 2010, and then will dramatically increase to over 50,000,000 by 2020.

[(2) By 2020, the population of "older" seniors, those over age 85, is expected to double to 7,000,000, and then double again to 14,000,000 by 2040.

[(3) As the senior population increases, so does the need for additional safe, decent, affordable, and suitable housing that meets their unique needs.

[(4) Due to the health care, transportation, and service needs of seniors, issues of providing suitable and affordable housing opportunities differ significantly from the housing needs of other families.

[(5) Seniors need access to a wide array of housing options, such as affordable assisted living, in-home care, supportive or service-enriched housing, and retrofitted homes and apartments to allow seniors to age in place and to avoid premature placement in institutional settings.

[(6) While there are many programs in place to assist seniors in finding and affording suitable housing and accessing needed services, these programs are fragmented and spread across many agencies, making it difficult for seniors to access assistance or to receive comprehensive information.

[(7) Better coordination among Federal agencies is needed, as is better coordination at State and local levels, to ensure that seniors can access government activities, programs, services, and benefits in an effective and efficient manner.

[(8) Up to date, accurate, and accessible statistics on key characteristics of seniors, including conditions, behaviors, and needs, are required to accurately identify the housing and service needs of seniors.

[SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.]

[In this Act:

[(1) The term "housing" means any form of residence, including rental housing, homeownership, assisted living, group home, supportive housing arrangement, nursing facility, or any other physical location where a person can live.

[(2) The term "service" includes transportation, health care, nursing assistance, meal, personal care and chore services, assistance with daily activities, mental health care, physical therapy, case management, and any other services needed by seniors to allow

them to stay in their housing or find alternative housing that meets their needs.

[(3) The term “program” includes any Federal or State program providing income support, health benefits or other benefits to seniors, housing assistance, mortgages, mortgage or loan insurance or guarantees, housing counseling, supportive services, assistance with daily activities, or other assistance for seniors.

[(4) The term “Council” means the Interagency Council on Meeting the Housing and Service Needs of Seniors.

[(5) The term “senior” means any individual 65 years of age or older.

[SEC. 4. INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON MEETING THE HOUSING AND SERVICE NEEDS OF SENIORS.]

[(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the executive branch an independent council to be known as the Interagency Council on Meeting the Housing and Service Needs of Seniors.

[(b) OBJECTIVES.—The objectives of the Council are as follows:

[(1) To promote coordination and collaboration among the Federal departments and agencies involved with housing, health care, and service needs of seniors in order to better meet the needs of senior citizens.

[(2) To identify the unique housing and service needs faced by seniors around the country and to recommend ways that the Federal Government, States, State and local governments, and others can better meet those needs, including how to ensure that seniors can find and afford housing that allows them to access health care, transportation, nursing assistance, and assistance with daily activities where they live or in their communities.

[(3) To facilitate the aging in place of seniors, by identifying and making available the programs and services necessary to enable seniors to remain in their homes as they age.

[(4) To improve coordination among the housing and service related programs and services of Federal agencies for seniors and to make recommendations about needed changes with an emphasis on—

[(A) maximizing the impact of existing programs and services;

[(B) reducing or eliminating areas of overlap and duplication in the provision and accessibility of such programs and services; and

[(C) making access to programs and services easier for seniors around the country.

[(5) To increase the efficiency and effectiveness of existing housing and service related programs and services which serve seniors.

[(6) To establish an ongoing system of coordination among and within such agencies or organizations so that the housing and service needs of seniors are met in a more efficient manner.

[(c) MEMBERSHIP.—The Council shall be composed of the following:

[(1) The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development or a designee of the Secretary.

[(2) The Secretary of Health and Human Services or a designee of the Secretary.

[(3) The Secretary of Agriculture or a designee of the Secretary.

[(4) The Secretary of Transportation or a designee of the Secretary.

[(5) The Secretary of Labor or a designee of the Secretary.

[(6) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs or a designee of the Secretary.

[(7) The Secretary of the Treasury or a designee of the Secretary.

[(8) The Commissioner of the Social Security Administration or a designee of the Commissioner.

[(9) The Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services or a designee of the Administrator.

[(10) The Administrator of the Administration on Aging or a designee of the Administrator.

[(11) The head (or designee) of any other Federal agency as the Council considers appropriate.

[(12) State and local representatives knowledgeable about the needs of seniors as chosen by the Council members described in paragraphs (1) through (11).

[(d) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of the Council shall alternate between the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the Secretary of Health and Human Services on an annual basis.

[(e) VICE CHAIR.—Each year, the Council shall elect a Vice Chair from among its members.

[(f) MEETINGS.—The Council shall meet at the call of its Chairperson or a majority of its members at any time, and no less often than quarterly. The Council shall hold meetings with stakeholders and other interested parties at least twice a year, so that the opinions of such parties can be taken into account and so that outside groups can learn of the Council’s activities and plans.

[SEC. 5. FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL.]

[(a) RELEVANT ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out its objectives, the Council shall—

[(1) review all Federal programs and services that assist seniors in finding, affording, and rehabilitating housing, including those that assist seniors in accessing health care, transportation, supportive services, and assistance with daily activities, where or close to where seniors live;

[(2) monitor, evaluate, and recommend improvements in existing programs and services administered, funded, or financed by Federal, State, and local agencies to assist seniors in meeting their housing and service needs and make any recommendations about how agencies can better work to house and serve seniors; and

[(3) recommend ways—

[(A) to reduce duplication among programs and services by Federal agencies that assist seniors in meeting their housing and service needs;

[(B) to ensure collaboration among and within agencies in the provision and availability of programs and services so that seniors are able to easily access needed programs and services;

[(C) to work with States to better provide housing and services to seniors by—

[(i) holding individual meetings with State representatives;

[(ii) providing ongoing technical assistance to States in better meeting the needs of seniors; and

[(iii) working with States to designate State liaisons to the Council;

[(D) to identify best practices for programs and services that assist seniors in meeting their housing and service needs, including model—

[(i) programs linking housing and services;

[(ii) financing products offered by government, quasi-government, and private sector entities;

[(iii) land use, zoning, and regulatory practices; and

[(iv) innovations in technology applications that give seniors access to information on available services;

[(E) to collect and disseminate information about seniors and the programs and services available to them to ensure that seniors can access comprehensive information;

[(F) to hold biannual meetings with stakeholders and other interested parties (or to

hold open Council meetings) to receive input and ideas about how to best meet the housing and service needs of seniors;

[(G) to maintain an updated website of policies, meetings, best practices, programs, services, and any other helpful information to keep people informed of the Council’s activities; and

[(H) to work with the Federal Interagency Forum on Aging Statistics, the Census Bureau, and member agencies to collect and maintain data relating to the housing and service needs of seniors so that all data can be accessed in one place and to identify and address unmet data needs.

[(b) REPORTS.—

[(1) BY MEMBERS.—Each year, the head of each agency that is a member of the Council shall prepare and transmit to the Council a report that describes—

[(A) each program and service administered by the agency that serves seniors and the number of seniors served by each program or service, the resources available in each, as well as a breakdown of where each program and service can be accessed;

[(B) the barriers and impediments, including statutory or regulatory, to the access and use of such programs and services by seniors;

[(C) the efforts made by each agency to increase opportunities for seniors to find and afford housing that meet their needs, including how the agency is working with other agencies to better coordinate programs and services; and

[(D) any new data collected by each agency relating to the housing and service needs of seniors.

[(2) BY THE COUNCIL.—Each year, the Council shall prepare and transmit to the President, the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, the House Financial Services Committee, and the House Committee on Education and the Workforce a report that—

[(A) summarizes the reports required in paragraph (1);

[(B) utilizes recent data to assess the nature of the problems faced by seniors in meeting their unique housing and service needs;

[(C) provides a comprehensive and detailed description of the programs and services of the Federal Government in meeting the needs and problems described in subparagraph (B);

[(D) describes the activities and accomplishments of the Council in working with Federal, State, and local governments, and private organizations in coordinating programs and services to meet the needs described in subparagraph (B) and the resources available to meet those needs;

[(E) assesses the level of Federal assistance required to meet the needs described in subparagraph (B); and

[(F) makes recommendations for appropriate legislative and administrative actions to meet the needs described in subparagraph (B) and for coordinating programs and services identified to meet those needs.

[SEC. 6. POWERS OF THE COUNCIL.]

[(a) HEARINGS.—The Council may hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, and receive such evidence as the Council considers advisable to carry out the purposes of this Act.

[(b) INFORMATION FROM AGENCIES.—Agencies which are members of the Council shall provide all requested information and data to the Council as requested.

[(c) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Council may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other departments and agencies of the Federal Government.

[(d) GIFTS.—The Council may accept, use, and dispose of gifts or donations of services or property.]

[SEC. 7. COUNCIL PERSONNEL MATTERS.]

[(a) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—All members of the Council who are officers or employees of the United States shall serve without compensation in addition to that received for their services as officers or employees of the United States.]

[(b) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The members of the Council shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Council.]

[(c) STAFF.—

[(1) IN GENERAL.—The Council shall, without regard to civil service laws and regulations, appoint and terminate an Executive Director and such other additional personnel as may be necessary to enable the Council to perform its duties.]

[(2) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The Council shall appoint an Executive Director at its initial meeting. The Executive Director shall be compensated at a rate not to exceed the rate of pay payable for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.]

[(3) COMPENSATION.—With the approval of the Council, the Executive Director may appoint and fix the compensation of such additional personnel as necessary to carry out the duties of the Council. The rate of compensation may be set without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter II of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification of positions and General Schedule pay rates, except that the rate of pay may not exceed the rate payable for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title.]

[(d) TEMPORARY AND INTERMITTENT SERVICES.—In carrying out its objectives, the Council may procure temporary and intermittent services of consultants and experts under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, at rates for individuals which do not exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title.]

[(e) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—Upon request of the Council, any Federal Government employee may be detailed to the Council without reimbursement, and such detail shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege.]

[(f) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.—The Secretary of Housing Urban Development and the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall provide the Council with such administrative and supportive services as are necessary to ensure that the Council can carry out its functions.]

[SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.]

[There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act, \$1,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2010.]

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Meeting the Housing and Service Needs of Seniors Act of 2005”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The senior population (persons 65 or older) in this country is rapidly growing, and is expected to increase from 34,700,000 in 2000 to nearly 40,000,000 by 2010, and then will dramatically increase to over 50,000,000 by 2020.

(2) By 2020, the population of “older” seniors, those over age 85, is expected to double to 7,000,000, and then double again to 14,000,000 by 2040.

(3) As the senior population increases, so does the need for additional safe, decent, affordable, and suitable housing that meets their unique needs.

(4) Due to the health care, transportation, and service needs of seniors, issues of providing suitable and affordable housing opportunities differ significantly from the housing needs of other families.

(5) Seniors need access to a wide array of housing options, such as affordable assisted living, in-home care, supportive or service-enriched housing, and retrofitted homes and apartments to allow seniors to age in place and to avoid premature placement in institutional settings.

(6) While there are many programs in place to assist seniors in finding and affording suitable housing and accessing needed services, these programs are fragmented and spread across many agencies, making it difficult for seniors to access assistance or to receive comprehensive information.

(7) Better coordination among Federal agencies is needed, as is better coordination at State and local levels, to ensure that seniors can access government activities, programs, services, and benefits in an effective and efficient manner.

(8) Up to date, accurate, and accessible statistics on key characteristics of seniors, including conditions, behaviors, and needs, are required to accurately identify the housing and service needs of seniors.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) HOUSING.—The term “housing” means any form of residence, including rental housing, homeownership, assisted living, group home, supportive housing arrangement, nursing facility, or any other physical location where a person can live.

(2) SERVICE.—The term “service” includes transportation, health care, nursing assistance, meal, personal care and chore services, assistance with daily activities, mental health care, physical therapy, case management, and any other services needed by seniors to allow them to stay in their housing or find alternative housing that meets their needs.

(3) PROGRAM.—The term “program” includes any Federal or State program providing income support, health benefits or other benefits to seniors, housing assistance, mortgages, mortgage or loan insurance or guarantees, housing counseling, supportive services, assistance with daily activities, or other assistance for seniors.

(4) COUNCIL.—The term “Council” means the Interagency Council on Meeting the Housing and Service Needs of Seniors.

(5) SENIOR.—The term “senior” means any individual 65 years of age or older.

SEC. 4. INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON MEETING THE HOUSING AND SERVICE NEEDS OF SENIORS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the executive branch an independent council to be known as the Interagency Council on Meeting the Housing and Service Needs of Seniors.

(b) OBJECTIVES.—The objectives of the Council are as follows:

(1) To promote coordination and collaboration among the Federal departments and agencies involved with housing, health care, and service needs of seniors in order to better meet the needs of senior citizens.

(2) To identify the unique housing and service needs faced by seniors around the country and to recommend ways that the Federal Government, States, State and local governments, and others can better meet those needs, including how to ensure that seniors can find and afford housing that allows them to access health care, transportation, nursing assistance, and assistance with daily activities where they live or in their communities.

(3) To facilitate the aging in place of seniors, by identifying and making available informa-

tion related to the programs and services necessary to enable seniors to remain in their homes as they age.

(4) To improve coordination among the housing and service related programs and services of Federal agencies for seniors and to make recommendations about needed changes with an emphasis on—

(A) maximizing the impact of existing programs and services;

(B) reducing or eliminating areas of overlap and duplication in the provision and accessibility of such programs and services; and

(C) making access to programs and services easier for seniors around the country.

(5) To increase the efficiency and effectiveness of existing housing and service related programs and services which serve seniors.

(6) To establish an ongoing system of coordination among and within such agencies or organizations so that the housing and service needs of seniors are met in a more efficient manner.

(c) MEMBERSHIP.—The Council shall be composed of the following:

(1) The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(2) The Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(3) The Secretary of Agriculture or a designee of the Secretary.

(4) The Secretary of Transportation or a designee of the Secretary.

(5) The Secretary of Labor or a designee of the Secretary.

(6) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs or a designee of the Secretary.

(7) The Secretary of the Treasury or a designee of the Secretary.

(8) The Commissioner of the Social Security Administration or a designee of the Commissioner.

(9) The Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services or a designee of the Administrator.

(10) The Administrator of the Administration on Aging or a designee of the Administrator.

(11) The head (or designee) of any other Federal agency as the Council considers appropriate.

(12)(A) 3 additional members, as appointed by the President to serve terms not to exceed 4 years, of whom—

(i) one shall be a Governor of a State;

(ii) one shall be a Mayor of a political subdivision of a State;

(iii) one shall be a county, town, township, parish, village, hamlet, or other general purpose local official of a political subdivision of a State.

(B) Of the members appointed by the President under subparagraph (A)—

(i) no more than 2 members may be affiliated with the same political party; and

(ii) none shall be considered a Federal employee.

(d) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of the Council shall alternate between the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the Secretary of Health and Human Services every 2 years.

(e) VICE CHAIR.—Every 2 years, the Council shall elect a Vice Chair from among its members.

(f) MEETINGS.—The Council shall meet at the call of its Chairperson or a majority of its members at any time, and no less often than quarterly. The Council shall hold meetings with stakeholders and other interested parties at least twice a year, so that the opinions of such parties can be taken into account and so that outside groups can learn of the Council’s activities and plans.

SEC. 5. FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL.

(a) RELEVANT ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out its objectives, the Council shall—

(1) review all Federal programs and services that assist seniors in finding, affording, and rehabilitating housing, including those that assist seniors in accessing health care, transportation,

supportive services, and assistance with daily activities, where or close to where seniors live;

(2) monitor, evaluate, and recommend improvements in existing programs and services administered, funded, or financed by Federal, State, and local agencies to assist seniors in meeting their housing and service needs and make any recommendations about how agencies can better work to house and serve seniors; and

(3) recommend ways to—

(A) reduce duplication among programs and services by Federal agencies that assist seniors in meeting their housing and service needs;

(B) ensure collaboration among and within agencies in the provision and availability of programs and services so that seniors are able to easily access needed programs and services;

(C) work with States to better provide housing and services to seniors by—

(i) holding individual meetings with State representatives;

(ii) providing ongoing technical assistance to States in better meeting the needs of seniors; and

(iii) working with States to designate State liaisons to the Council;

(D) identify best practices for programs and services that assist seniors in meeting their housing and service needs, including model—

(i) programs linking housing and services;

(ii) financing products offered by government, quasi-government, and private sector entities;

(iii) land use, zoning, and regulatory practices; and

(iv) innovations in technology applications that give seniors access to information on available services or that help in providing services to seniors;

(E) collect and disseminate information about seniors and the programs and services available to them to ensure that seniors can access comprehensive information;

(F) hold biannual meetings with stakeholders and other interested parties (or to hold open Council meetings) to receive input and ideas about how to best meet the housing and service needs of seniors;

(G) maintain an updated website of policies, meetings, best practices, programs, services, and any other helpful information to keep people informed of the Council's activities; and

(H) work with the Federal Interagency Forum on Aging Statistics, the Census Bureau, and member agencies to collect and maintain data relating to the housing and service needs of seniors so that all data can be accessed in one place and to identify and address unmet data needs.

(b) REPORTS.—

(1) **BY MEMBERS.**—Each year, the head of each agency who is a member of the Council shall prepare and transmit to the Council a report that describes—

(A) each program and service administered by the agency that serves a substantial number of seniors and the number of seniors served by each program or service, the resources available in each, as well as a breakdown of where each program and service can be accessed;

(B) the barriers and impediments, including statutory or regulatory, to the access and use of such programs and services by seniors;

(C) the efforts made by each agency to increase opportunities for seniors to find and afford housing that meet their needs, including how the agency is working with other agencies to better coordinate programs and services; and

(D) any new data collected by each agency relating to the housing and service needs of seniors.

(2) **BY THE COUNCIL.**—Each year, the Council shall prepare and transmit to the President, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, the Special Committee on Aging of the Senate, the Financial Services Committee of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives, a report that—

(A) summarizes the reports required in paragraph (1);

(B) utilizes recent data to assess the nature of the problems faced by seniors in meeting their unique housing and service needs;

(C) provides a comprehensive and detailed description of the programs and services of the Federal Government in meeting the needs and problems described in subparagraph (B);

(D) describes the activities and accomplishments of the Council in working with Federal, State, and local governments, and private organizations in coordinating programs and services to meet the needs described in subparagraph (B) and the resources available to meet those needs;

(E) assesses the level of Federal assistance required to meet the needs described in subparagraph (B); and

(F) makes recommendations for appropriate legislative and administrative actions to meet the needs described in subparagraph (B) and for coordinating programs and services designed to meet those needs.

SEC. 6. POWERS OF THE COUNCIL.

(a) **HEARINGS.**—The Council may hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, and receive such evidence as the Council considers advisable to carry out the purposes of this Act.

(b) **INFORMATION FROM AGENCIES.**—Agencies which are represented on the Council shall provide all requested information and data to the Council as requested.

(c) **POSTAL SERVICES.**—The Council may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other departments and agencies of the Federal Government.

(d) **GIFTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Council may accept, use, and dispose of gifts or donations of services or property.

(2) **REGULATIONS REQUIRED.**—The Council shall adopt internal regulations governing the receipt of gifts or donations of services or property similar to those described in part 2601 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 7. COUNCIL PERSONNEL MATTERS.

(a) **COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—**

(1) **NON-FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.**—A member of the Council who is not an officer or employee of the Federal Government shall serve without compensation.

(2) **FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.**—A member of the Council who is an officer or employee of the United States shall serve without compensation in addition to the compensation received for services of the member as an officer or employee of the Federal Government.

(b) **TRAVEL EXPENSES.**—The members of the Council shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Council.

(c) **STAFF.—**

(1) **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.**—The Council shall appoint an Executive Director at its initial meeting. The Executive Director shall be compensated at a rate not to exceed the rate of pay payable for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) **COMPENSATION.**—With the approval of the Council, the Executive Director may appoint and fix the compensation of such additional personnel as necessary to carry out the duties of the Council. The rate of compensation may be set without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter II of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification of positions and General Schedule pay rates, except that the rate of pay may not exceed the rate payable for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

(d) **TEMPORARY AND INTERMITTENT SERVICES.**—In carrying out its objectives, the Council

may procure temporary and intermittent services of consultants and experts under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, at rates for individuals which do not exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

(e) **DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.**—Upon request of the Council, any Federal Government employee may be detailed to the Council without reimbursement, and such detail shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege.

(f) **ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.**—The Secretary of Housing Urban Development and the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall provide the Council with such administrative (including office space), supportive services, and technical supports as are necessary to ensure that the Council can carry out its functions.

SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act, \$1,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2010.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support passage of S. 705, legislation to establish an Interagency Council on Meeting the Housing and Service Needs of Seniors. This legislation will help the Federal Government work with its partners to meet the growing housing and related needs of senior citizens around the country. The Interagency Council will work to better coordinate Federal programs so that seniors and their families can access the programs and the services necessary to allow them to age in place or find suitable housing alternatives.

The challenges that confront us are growing more urgent as our population ages. Data from the 2000 census show that the population over 65 years of age was 34.7 million. This number is expected to grow to over 50 million by 2020. It is projected that by 2030 nearly 20 percent of our population will be over 65. That is, almost one American in every five will be elderly.

As our senior population continues to increase, so will the demand for affordable housing and service options. This is a matter of concern not only for those who will need the services but for families—children along with spouses. It concerns communities all around the country, as productive and responsible citizens grow older and need help. It is a matter of deep concern for us all, because it will affect the well-being of our entire society.

In order for seniors to age in place, or find alternative housing arrangements, services must be linked with housing. Seniors must be able to access needed health supports, transportation, meal and chore services, and assistance with daily tasks in or close to their homes. Without needed supports, seniors and their families face difficult and even daunting decisions.

The Commission on Affordable Housing and Health Facility Needs for Seniors—“Seniors Commission”—established by Congress in 1999 found that too often, seniors face premature institutionalization because housing and services are not linked. According to the Commission's report, “the very

heart" of its work "is the recognition that the housing and service needs of seniors traditionally have been addressed in different 'worlds' that often fail to recognize or communicate with each other." The Commission concluded that: "the most striking characteristic of seniors" housing and health care in this country is the disconnection of one field from another."

If left unattended, the problem of lack of coordination will increasingly undermine all of our efforts to assure that Americans, as they age, have access to the services they need. The Interagency Council on the Housing and Service Needs of Seniors will increase coordination and will serve as a permanent national platform to address the needs and issues of our aging population.

The Interagency Council will help to improve collaboration and coordination among the Federal agencies and our State and local partners, to ensure that seniors are better able to access housing and services. This Council will work to find new ways to link housing programs and needed supportive services to increase their efficiency, to make them more accessible, and to strengthen their capacity.

The decisions that our seniors and their families must make are difficult enough. They should not be made more painful and burdensome by having to negotiate a confusing maze of programs and services and a multiplicity of administrative procedures. I am hopeful that the Interagency Council on Meeting the Housing and Service Needs of Seniors will be able to focus attention on this problem, while working towards solutions.

This bill has wide support from a diverse array of groups, ranging from senior advocates to faith-based organizations and direct service providers. The diversity of groups that have worked together in support of this legislation is indicative of the great need for such coordination. If we are to successfully address the growing needs of seniors, it is clear that much work must be done. The establishment of an Interagency Council on Meeting the Housing and Service Needs of Seniors is a critical first step in this endeavor. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this important legislation. I ask unanimous consent that the legislation as reported from Committee be printed immediately following this statement. I also ask unanimous consent that the attached letters of support, section-by-section analysis of the bill, and relevant fact sheet be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 1.)

Mr. SARBANES. Finally, I want to thank Chairman SHELBY for his leadership and assistance in moving this legislation. I also want to acknowledge the excellent work of the staff on this bill, especially that of Jennifer Fogel-Bublick, as well as Sarah Garrett,

Mark Calabria, and Tewana Wilkerson. In addition, we could not have done this without the active support of Kathy Casey, Chairman SHELBY's Staff Director.

EXHIBIT 1

AARP,

Washington, DC, April 15, 2005.

Hon. PAUL SARBANES,
Dirksen Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR SARBANES: On behalf of AARP, thank you for introducing S. 705, the "Meeting the Housing and Service Needs of Seniors Act of 2005," a bill to establish an Interagency Council to improve coordination in service delivery. As proposed, the Interagency Council would not only coordinate, but also monitor, evaluate, and recommend improvements in existing programs and services that assist seniors in meeting their housing and service needs at the federal, state, and local level. And, the Council would collect and disseminate information about seniors along with these programs and services.

Better coordination of housing programs is needed for a variety of reasons. In many instances, multiple program requirements and paperwork may become duplicative and burdensome. Resident means testing and qualifications may also be slightly different across programs. And, different methods of establishing rent levels and defining market areas for comparison are used by different programs. Lastly, different housing sponsors and agencies may have different waiting lists that can overlap for a population at need.

The need for greater coordination is particularly apparent when trying to put together the housing, health, and social services programs at all levels of government that are critical to successfully serving persons with disabilities of all ages. Research has shown that federal housing programs have very efficiently, if inadvertently, targeted those who are at high risk of needing supportive services to remain independent. Analysis by AARP's Public Policy Institute of data from the 2002 American Communities Survey found that, compared to older homeowners, older renters in subsidized housing were:

• Much older—half of the older renters in subsidized housing were 75 or older compared to just over a third of older homeowners;

• Twice as likely to experience physical and cognitive limitations that threaten their ability to live independently;

• More than three times as likely to live alone and have weak informal supports from family; and

• Roughly three times as likely to be at high risk of needing Medicaid assistance due to low incomes and high levels of disability.

Better coordination of housing, health, and social services programs would serve a variety of purposes. Housing managers need reliable partners from health and social services agencies to serve the large and growing number of frail older people in their buildings. Social services agencies could benefit from the greater efficiencies of serving concentrations of older people with supportive services needs. But the most compelling case for better coordination comes from the lives of the older people who need assistance—the older woman who is desperately clinging to independence in her apartment; the older man who is told he must move to a nursing home to get needed services; or the older resident in a nursing home who might have been able to leave if suitable housing and services were available.

AARP actively participated in the Seniors Housing Commission whose 2002 report called

attention to many of these issues. We have supported efforts to expand the mission of housing programs and to provide the needed tools for serving older persons with disabilities through building features that accommodate service needs, staffing that includes trained service coordinators, and retrofitting dollars to convert buildings to assisted living. AARP is co-chairing a process, along with the National Cooperative Bank Development Corporation, Fannie Mae, and the National Council of State Housing Finance Agencies, to develop recommendations on how housing finance programs could be better structured to promote affordable assisted living. While these efforts have been important, they do not yet approach the scale of what is needed to serve the frail older people who need help. Only a concerted effort by all agencies at all levels of government can adequately address these needs.

We urge Congress and the Administration to work together to expedite the passage of this legislation and subsequent establishment of the Interagency Council. AARP again thanks you for your attention to the needs of American seniors, and stands ready to assist you to enact this important legislation. If you have any further questions, feel free to contact me, or have your staff contact Tim Gearan of our Federal Affairs staff.

Sincerely,

DAVID CERTNER,
Director, Federal Affairs.

ELDERLY HOUSING COALITION,
April 5, 2005.

Re support for Interagency Council on Housing and Service Needs of Seniors.

Hon. PAUL SARBANES,
Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee, U.S. Senate, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR SARBANES, The Elderly Housing Coalition (EHC) is comprised of organizations that represent providers of affordable housing and supportive service for the elderly. We are writing in enthusiastic support of your legislation that would establish the Interagency Council on Housing and Service Needs of Seniors. This Council is desperately needed and will help federal, state and local governments better serve the housing and service needs of our elderly population.

According to the Congressional Commission on Affordable Housing and Health Facility Needs for Seniors in the 21st Century, we must integrate our current fragmented system of programs that seniors rely on to find the housing and services they need. As the number of seniors grows exponentially and will, in fact, have doubled by 2030, we must find a way to use our resources more effectively.

Your bill will be a great first step to bringing the key governmental agencies together to identify how they can best work to maximize program efficiency and streamline access. Again, we are pleased to offer our support for this legislation establishing an interagency council and thank you for your leadership on this issue.

If there is anything that the Elderly Housing Coalition can do to help or if you have any questions about the EHC please contact Nancy Libson or Alayna Waldrum.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Retired Americans, American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging, American Association of Service Coordinators, Association of Jewish Aging Services of North America, B'nai B'rith International, Catholic Charities USA, Catholic Health Association of the United States, Council of Large Public Housing Authorities,

Elderly Housing Development and Operations Corporation.
Kinship Caregiver Resources/
Intergenerational Village Project,
Local Initiatives Support Corporation,
National Association of Housing Co-
operatives, National Association of
Housing and Redevelopment Officials,
National Housing Conference, National
Low Income Housing Coalition, National
PACE Association, Stewards of
Affordable Housing for the Future, Vol-
unteers of America.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
SERVICE COORDINATORS,
Columbus, OH, April 5, 2005.

Hon. PAUL SARBANES,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR SARBANES: On behalf of the 1,600 members of the American Association of Service Coordinators (AASC), I want to express our support for your proposed legislation to establish an Interagency Council on Housing and Service Needs of Seniors. AASC believes that this bill is urgently needed to assist service coordinators and others seeking to bring together the various federal and other programs needed by older persons and other special populations.

In my testimony, before the Commission on Affordable Housing and Health Facility describing the present fragmented system, I stated that "even for long-time professionals, the current 'crazy-quilt' tapestry of services and shelter options make it difficult to fully grasp their complexities, let alone try to access them. The results are confusion among consumers, duplication of service delivery, government agencies not knowing who supplies what service or that some services even exist, reduction in qualified service workers, regulations that impede dedicated service providers from providing the service they were hired and want to perform."

One of AASC recommendations to the Commission was the establishment of a cabinet-level department that would encompass in one entity housing, health care and other federal support programs serving the elderly to better focus federal policy and regulatory efforts, in conjunction with states and communities. AASC believes that your bill is an important step to establish a permanent national platform to address many of the cross-cutting needs and issues confronting increasing numbers of frail and vulnerable older persons.

As you may know, AASC is a national, nonprofit organization representing professional service coordinators who serve low-income older persons and other special populations living in federally assisted and public housing facilities nationwide, their caregivers, and others in their local community. Our dedicated membership consists of service coordinators, case managers and social workers, housing managers and administrators, housing management companies, public housing authorities, state housing finance agencies, state and local area agencies on aging and a broad range of national and state organizations and professionals involved in affordable, service-enhanced housing. Background information on AASC is available on our website: www.servicercoordinators.org.

We are grateful for your leadership on the vital issue. Please let me know how AASC can assist you to expedite enactment of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

JANICE MONKS,
President.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF HOMES
AND SERVICES FOR THE AGING,
Washington, DC, April 5, 2005.
Re Interagency Council on Housing and
Service Needs of Seniors legislation.

Hon. PAUL SARBANES,
Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Af-
fairs Committee, U.S. Senate, Dirksen Sen-
ate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR SARBANES: On behalf of AAHSA, I am writing to thank you for introducing legislation to establish an Interagency Council on Housing and Service Needs of Seniors. AAHSA members serve two million people every day through mission-driven, not-for-profit organizations dedicated to providing the services people need, when they need them, in the place they call home. Our members offer the continuum of aging services: assisted living residences, continuing care retirement communities, nursing homes, senior housing facilities, and outreach services. AAHSA's mission is to create the future of aging services through quality the public can trust.

Half of our members own or operate federally subsidized senior apartment buildings and work collaboratively with home and community based service providers that operate programs governed by a maze of departmental regulations. This unique perspective gives us and our members a bird's eye view of how important it is for the various federal agencies to work together to ensure the best care in the most responsive and efficient manner possible.

In 2002 the Commission on Affordable Housing and Health Facility Needs for Seniors in the 21st Century reported to Congress that a top priority for the federal government should be integrating the existing fragmented system of programs that seniors rely on to piece together the housing and services they need. Time is precious—the United States is facing exponential growth in our senior population, which will double by 2030. AAHSA members have created a number of successful models for combining services and senior housing. Unfortunately these are limited and difficult to replicate because of the programmatic barriers. Now is the time to get the policymakers to the table to address the barriers and opportunities that exist in our federal programs and how to make them work.

We know that this can be done. AAHSA strongly supports your bill, which will help the Executive branch and Federal agencies better coordinate the successful aging programs, as an important first step. Thank you for your leadership. If there is anything that AAHSA or my staff can do to support you, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,

LARRY MINNIX,
President and CEO.

UNITED JEWISH COMMUNITIES,
Washington, DC, May 12, 2005.

Hon. PAUL SARBANES,
U.S. Senate, Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR SARBANES: On behalf of United Jewish Communities, I am pleased to offer our support for your efforts to establish an Interagency Council on Housing and Service Needs for Seniors through your introduction of S. 705, the Meeting the Housing and Service Needs of Seniors Act of 2005. As proposed, the executive level Interagency Council will provide crucial coordination of housing, health and social services for seniors. The Interagency Council will also make possible greater cooperation between the federal agencies involved with these programs, including HUD, HHS, DOT and AOA.

As you may know, UJC represents and serves 155 Jewish Federations and 400 inde-

pendent Jewish communities across North America—one of the world's largest and most effective networks of social service providers and programs, meeting the needs of all people, Jews and non-Jews, wherever they live. More importantly, the American Jewish population is aging faster than the general population. More than a million Jews are over 65; more than 318,000 live alone. Federation-supported programs, transportation assistance, home-delivered meals and a myriad of other services help ensure that our seniors are cared for with dignity and loving-kindness. It is critical that we maximize program efficiency and streamline access.

United Jewish Communities strongly supports your bill, which will better help key governmental agencies coordinate aging programs. We urge Congress and the Administration to work together to pass this legislation. Thank you for your leadership on this initiative. If there is anything that UJC can do to be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Sincerely,

STEPHAN O. KLINE,
Director, Government Affairs.

THE ENTERPRISE FOUNDATION,
Columbia, MD, May 20, 2005.

Hon. PAUL S. SARBANES,
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Bank-
ing, Housing and Urban Affairs, Hart Sen-
ate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR SARBANES: The Enterprise Foundation strongly supports your bill to establish an Interagency Council on Housing and Service Needs of Seniors (S. 705). Developing effective and efficient coordination among the various federal agencies that are involved in providing housing, health care and supportive services to seniors is critical to meeting the needs of elderly low-income Americans and their families.

The Enterprise Foundation and our subsidiary organization, the Enterprise Social Investment Corporation, certainly recognize that providing decent, affordable housing for low-income seniors requires effective linkages between housing and services to enable seniors to remain in their homes and communities. To date, ESIC has completed 212 elderly housing projects, representing an investment of more than \$729 million. Of the 68,727 affordable housing units ESIC has produced, 20,005 include support services for elderly and disabled residents as well as families.

In recognition of the need for collaboration, The Foundation, ESIC and the Corporation for Supportive Housing have recently embarked on a new Supportive Housing Investment Partnership that is the nation's largest, most ambitious initiative focused on leveraging private capital investments to significantly increase the production of supportive housing across the country. This partnership will enable nonprofit developers to build more than 3,000 new supportive housing units over the next two years. This partnership is designed to expand the impact of all of the partners, to be flexible in adapting to local needs and environments, and also to support the established relationships and the significant efforts to date of each partner.

Similar collaboration at the federal level among and within agencies providing programs and services for seniors would maximize the impact of . . . seniors receive the assistance they need.

The Enterprise Foundation commends you for your leadership on this and other housing issues and urges Congress to expedite the passage of this critical legislation. Please

call upon us if we can provide additional information or assistance.

Sincerely,

F. BARTON HARVEY III,
Chairman of the Board
and Chief Executive Officer.

ELDERLY HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
& OPERATIONS CORPORATION,
Fort Lauderdale, FL, April 15, 2005.

Hon. PAUL SARBANES,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR SARBANES: I am pleased that Elderly Housing Development and Operations Corporation (EHDOC) representing over 40 senior housing facilities in 14 states, is joining with other non-profit organizations involved with federally assisted senior housing to strongly support your bill to establish an Interagency Council on Housing and Service Needs of Seniors. We believe that the establishment of this Interagency Council will provide a cost-effective and efficient means to promote coordination between the various federal agencies involved with senior housing and services, particularly HUD and HHS.

EHDOC is well aware of the need to improve collaboration between the various federal agencies based on our efforts to assist low-income, frail elderly in Council House in Suitland, MD. Unfortunately, it is often difficult to link the various services needed to enable many frail elderly to remain in their homes as they age due to the existing fragmentation of federal housing, services and health care policies and programs.

The difficulty experienced by EHDOC with linking housing and services is repeated by many nonprofit sponsors of federally assisted senior housing throughout the country. As you know, I was honored to serve as your appointee to the recent Commission on Affordable Housing and Health Care Facilities Needs of Older Persons. We repeatedly heard testimony from public and private agencies involved with senior housing, supportive services and health care, older persons and others, of their difficulties in bringing together these services to meet the needs of older persons.

As stated in the Senior Commissions' final report, "the very heart of this Commission's work is the recognition that the housing and service needs of seniors traditionally have been addressed in different 'worlds' that often fail to recognize or communicate with each other." Findings of the Commission concluded "while policymakers have struggled to be responsive to the needs of seniors, the very structure of Congressional committees and Federal agencies often makes it difficult to address complex needs in a comprehensive and coordinated fashion. For example: medical needs of seniors are addressed by Medicare and Medicaid; social service needs are addressed by Medicaid, the OAA, and other block grant programs; housing programs are administered by HUD and the Department of Agriculture's RHS; and transportation programs are administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)."

We commend you for your leadership in addressing this critical need to effectively bring together the various federal agencies and others involved with affordable housing and service needs of older persons through the establishment of an Interagency Council on Senior Housing. Please let me if you have any questions or how EHDOC can assist you with the enactment of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

STEVE PROTULIS,
Executive Director.

S. 705—SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1. Short title

This section establishes the title of the bill, the "Meeting the Housing and Service Needs of Seniors Act of 2005"

Section 2. Congressional findings

This section states Congressional Findings, including:

(1) The senior population (persons 65 or older) in this country is rapidly growing, and is expected to increase from 34,700,000 in 2000 to nearly 40,000,000 by 2010, and then will dramatically increase to over 50,000,000 by 2020.

(2) Seniors need access to a wide array of housing options, such as affordable assisted living, in home care, supportive or service-enriched housing, and retrofitted homes and apartments to allow seniors to age in place and to avoid premature placement in institutional settings.

(3) While there are many programs in place to assist seniors in finding and affording suitable housing and accessing needed services, these programs are fragmented and spread across many agencies, making it difficult for seniors to access assistance or to receive comprehensive information.

(4) Better coordination among Federal agencies is needed, as is better coordination at State and local levels, to ensure that seniors can access government activities, programs, services, and benefits in an effective and efficient manner.

Section 3. Definitions

This section provides definitions of the following terms: "housing," "service," "program," "Council," and "senior."

Section 4. Interagency Council on Meeting the Housing and Service Needs of Seniors

This section establishes a high level executive branch Interagency Council on Meeting the Housing and Service Needs of Seniors.

This section also lays out the objectives of the Council, including promoting coordination and collaboration among the federal agencies and departments which serve seniors; identifying housing and service needs of seniors; facilitating the aging in place of seniors; and making recommendations about needed changes to maximize the impact of existing programs, reduce duplication and increase access to programs and services.

This section details the Council membership—the Secretaries of HUD and HHS, as well as the Secretaries or designees of the Department of Agriculture, Labor, Transportation, Veterans Affairs, and the Treasury. Also serving on the Council will be the following (or their designees): the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration, the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Administrator of the Administration on Aging. The Council will also have three additional members— a Governor, a Mayor and a local official, as appointed by the President. This section establishes that the Secretaries of HUD and HHS will chair the Council in rotating 2-year terms. Under this section, the Council is required to meet quarterly, and must hold at least 2 meetings a year with stakeholders and interested parties. This requirement can be met by opening at least two of the quarterly meetings to the public.

Section 5. Functions of the council

This section lists the activities that the Council will undertake in meeting its objectives. In meeting its objectives, the Council will: review all federal programs and services that assist seniors; monitor, evaluate and recommend improvements in existing programs, and how programs can be better coordinated; recommend ways to reduce duplication and ensure greater collaboration; work to facilitate the aging in place of sen-

iors; work with states to ensure programs and services are coordinated at state and local levels; identify best practices for meeting the needs of seniors; ensure seniors have access to information about programs and services, including the establishment of a website; and maintain updated data sources on seniors and their needs.

This section also requires that each agency or department that is a member of the Council provide a report to the Council that describes: each program in the agency or department that serves a substantial number of seniors; any barriers to the access and use of such programs; the efforts made by the agency in increasing service enriched housing opportunities for seniors; and any new data relating to housing and service needs of seniors.

Based on the information provided by each member agency, the Council is required to prepare and transmit a report to Congress and the President that summarizes the agency information; assesses the needs of seniors; provides a comprehensive description of the programs and services that exist for seniors; describes how the agencies and Council are working with state and local governments and private organizations to better coordinate senior programs; and makes recommendations for legislative and administrative changes needed to better meet the needs of seniors.

Section 6. Powers of the council

This section details how the Council will work, including granting the Council the power to hold hearings and take testimony as needed. In addition, this section provides that member agencies must provide the Council with all requested information. This section also requires the Council to adopt internal ethics guidelines.

Section 7. Council personnel matters

This section clarifies that Council members shall not be compensated for their service on the Council. Under this section, the Council must appoint an Executive Director at its initial meeting, and the Executive Director, with the approval of the Council may hire staff.

This section also requires the Secretaries of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to provide all necessary administrative support including office space and computer/internet access.

Section 8. Authorization of appropriations

This section authorizes \$1.5 million per year for 5 years for the Council.

SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH AN INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON MEETING THE HOUSING AND SERVICE NEEDS OF SENIORS

This legislation will create an executive level Interagency Council to better coordinate housing programs and related services so that senior citizens can age in place and access needed services. Unfortunately, the current programs and services that assist the elderly in meeting their needs are spread across numerous federal agencies, making it difficult for seniors to understand and access needed services.

The senior population (persons 65 or older) in this country is rapidly growing, and is expected to increase from 34.7 million in 2000 to nearly 40 million by 2010, and then will dramatically increase to over 50 million by 2020. By the year 2030, nearly one-fifth of the United States population will be above 65 years of age. As the senior population increases, so does the need for additional safe, decent, affordable, and suitable housing that meets their unique needs.

The Council will undertake a number of activities to help coordinate housing programs and services for seniors:

Conduct a thorough review of all federal programs and services designed to assist seniors with their housing needs

Facilitate the "aging in place" of seniors

Make recommendations about how to reduce duplication among programs and how to more effectively coordinate programs and services

Collect and disseminate data and information on seniors and their needs

Maintain an updated website with information on how seniors can access housing and services that fit their needs

Work with States to coordinate programs and services at the State and local level

Implement the recommendation of the 1999 Congressionally established Seniors Commission that the federal government streamline and consolidate its programs and services for seniors

This Interagency Council will be comprised of the Secretaries (or designees) of the agencies which operate programs for seniors: HUD, HHS, DOT, Agriculture, Treasury, Labor, Veterans Affairs, as well as the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration, the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Administrator of the Administration on Aging.

The legislation authorizes \$1.5 million per year for 5 years to pay for staff and other expenses.

The legislation is supported by many organizations involved in housing and services for seniors, including: AARP (American Association of Retired Persons), NAHRO (the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials), AAHSA (American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging), the Elderly Housing Coalition, and the National Low Income Housing Coalition.

AGING NEEDS IN THE UNITED STATES

Our Nation's Senior Population is Rapidly Growing, and Americans are Living Longer Than Ever Before.

The senior population (age 65 and older) is expected to double by 2030, from 36 million to 70 million, one-fifth of the Nation's population.

By 2050 there will be over 86 million seniors, an increase of 147% since 2000.

The average American life expectancy is anticipated to increase from 76 to 81 by 2060.

By 2020 the number of seniors over age 85 is expected to double to 7 million and then double again to 14 million by 2040.

Seniors Want to Age in Place.

82% of Americans age 45 and older say that even if they need help caring for themselves, they prefer receiving services that allow them to stay in their current home.

89% of those 55 and older desire to age in place, up from 84% in 1992.

To Facilitate Aging in Place, Services Must Be Connected to Housing.

While many seniors want to remain at home, over 18% of seniors (over 5.8 million) who do not reside in nursing facilities have difficulty performing their daily activities without assistance, and over one million of these seniors are severely impaired, requiring assistance with many of their basic tasks.

Many other seniors, those that can perform their daily functions, still require access to health care, transportation and other services.

In fact, nearly 20% of seniors have significant long-term care needs.

It is predicted that both shrinking family size and increasing workforce participation by women could make informal care less available (women currently provide the majority of such care), leading to a greater reliance on care from other sources.

In 2005, \$129 billion will be spent on paid care for seniors; roughly \$15,000 per senior.

To pay for long-term care, many seniors rely on government funding—Medicaid (39%) and Medicare (20%), while 36% of seniors pay out-of-pocket expenses.

Today, approximately one-third of all Medicaid spending pays for long-term care, making Medicaid our Nation's largest source of payment for such services and supports.

Medicaid spent a total of \$83.8 billion for long-term care services in 2003.

Of those over age 85, roughly 55% are impaired and require long-term care.

A Florida study showed that more than 34% of seniors in government-assisted housing have no family to turn to if sick or disabled.

Many Seniors Are Not in a Financial Position to Pay for the Housing and/or Services They Need.

There are nearly six times as many seniors in need of affordable housing as are currently served in rent-assisted housing.

81% of seniors are homeowners, but: 44% of those have incomes of less than 50% of Area Median Income; 40% have no savings; 26% have less than \$25,000 saved.

35% of senior renters are severely rent burdened and pay more than 50% of their income for rent.

The median income of older persons in 2002 was \$19,436 for males and \$11,406 for females.

In home support services are expensive and can cost from \$140–\$200 per day, or up to \$73,000 per year.

Roughly one-third of seniors who enter a nursing home are eligible for Medicaid upon admission; another third deplete their assets paying for care and then turn to Medicaid to pay for the portion of care that exceeds their income.

Nuring Homes: Without services, seniors find it difficult to remain outside of nursing homes or other institutional settings.

One third of seniors leave their homes to go to nursing homes.

Nursing home costs average \$60,000 per year; these costs are expected to rise at least 5% annually.

Almost 20% of seniors over age 85 live in nursing homes, compared with less than 2% of seniors age 65–84.

65% of nursing home admissions are directly from hospitals, giving families little time to explore other options.

The Congressionally established Seniors Commission found in their 2002 report that the unsynchronized federal housing and health policies often lead to premature institutionalization.

Assisted Living Facilities: Many seniors could be well served in assisted living facilities, an immediate step between aging in place and nursing homes.

Assisted living is the fastest growing type of senior housing in the United States, accounting for roughly 75% of all new senior housing produced in recent years.

The typical assisted living resident is a widowed White woman, age 85.

Roughly 50% of assisted living residents have Alzheimer's disease or other cognitive impairment.

In 2002, over 36,000 assisted living facilities served approximately 910,000 residents.

Assisted living costs between \$2,100 and \$2,900 a month, and is primarily private pay. Few people have private insurance coverage, and public subsidies are limited.

In 2002, 41 states provided at least some Medicaid coverage for assisted living (serving about 102,000 elderly Medicaid beneficiaries), but this covered personal care services, not room and board.

Programs and Services for Seniors are Fragmented: Regardless of where seniors live, it is clear that housing and services must be linked.

The 1999 Congressionally established Seniors Commission found that "the most striking

characteristic of seniors' housing and health care in this country is the disconnection of one field from another."

The Seniors Commission also found that "the time has come for coordination among Federal and State agencies and administrators."

What these facts illustrate is that there is tremendous stress on seniors and on their families to find, maintain and afford housing; to acquire and pay for personal care assistance or long term care; and to access other needed services that can keep them independent and enable them to stay connected to their communities and age in place.

Senator Sarbanes has introduced an Interagency Council on Meeting the Housing and Service Needs of Seniors, to better coordinate housing programs and related services so that seniors can age in place and access needed services.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment be agreed to, the bill as amended be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 705), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.J. RES. 72

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate proceeds to H.J. Res. 72 on Friday, that Senator HARKIN be recognized in order to offer an amendment related to CSBG, which is at the desk. I further ask consent that there be 20 minutes for debate in relation to the amendment, no other amendments be in order, and that following that debate the Senate proceed to a vote in relation to the Harkin amendment; further, that following that vote, the joint resolution be read a third time and the Senate proceed to a vote on the joint resolution, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WIRED FOR HEALTH CARE QUALITY ACT

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 178, S. 1418.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1418) to enhance the adoption of a nationwide interoperable health information technology system and to improve the quality and reduce the costs of health care in the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment.

(Strike the part shown in black brackets and insert the part shown in italic.)