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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO FILE A REQUEST WITH THE CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES TO AMEND THE STATE'S EXISTING SECTION 1115 DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM TO IMPLEMENT A HOUSING AND HEALTH OPPORTUNITIES DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM TO ENABLE DIRECT HOUSING COSTS FOR MEDICAID RECIPIENTS TO BE COVERED BY THE FEDERAL FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION FOR MEDICAID.

1 WHEREAS, lack of stable housing can impede the ability to  
2 enroll in health care coverage and access needed health care,  
3 leading to the creation of physical, social, or emotional  
4 distress that fuels the cycle of health inequity; and  
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6 WHEREAS, Medicaid is a joint federal-state program that  
7 provides health coverage or nursing home coverage to certain  
8 categories of individuals, including children, pregnant women,  
9 parents of eligible children, low income adults, former foster  
10 care children, aged, blind, and disabled individuals; and  
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12 WHEREAS, although federal financial participation for  
13 Medicaid is generally not available to state Medicaid programs  
14 for room and board, federal funds are generally available from  
15 certain federal sources for housing-related support and services  
16 that promote health and community integration, including home  
17 accessibility modifications, one-time community transition  
18 costs, and housing and tenancy support, including pre-tenancy  
19 services and tenancy sustaining services; and  
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21 WHEREAS, section 1115 of the federal Social Security Act  
22 (Act) allows the United States Secretary of Health and Human  
23 Services to waive compliance with certain Medicaid requirements  
24 under the Act; approve experimental, pilot, or demonstration  
25 projects that are found by the Secretary to be likely to assist  
26 in promoting the objectives of the Medicaid program; and provide  
27 federal financial participation for demonstration costs that



1 would not otherwise be considered as federally matchable  
2 expenditures; and

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4 WHEREAS, states have significant flexibility in how they  
5 define target populations for section 1115 demonstration  
6 services and activities, such as by age, risk factors for  
7 services, geographic areas, and populations meeting certain  
8 characteristics; and

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10 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Health and Human  
11 Services, through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid  
12 Services, has been advancing housing support services through  
13 recent 1115 demonstration approvals that will test innovative  
14 interventions that could help to stabilize the housing  
15 situations of eligible Medicaid enrollees, improve their use of  
16 needed health care, and increase the likelihood they will keep  
17 receiving and benefitting from services to which they are  
18 entitled; and

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20 WHEREAS, in October 2022, the Centers for Medicare and  
21 Medicaid Services approved a request filed by the Arizona Health  
22 Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), Arizona's Medicaid  
23 agency, to amend Arizona's section 1115 research and  
24 demonstration waiver to implement AHCCCS' Housing and Health  
25 Opportunities demonstration program that seeks to enhance and  
26 expand housing services and interventions for AHCCCS members who  
27 are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless; and

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29 WHEREAS, Arizona's Housing and Health Opportunities  
30 demonstration program is a groundbreaking effort designed to  
31 complement Arizona's existing housing program funded with  
32 general fund dollars that provides rent subsidies to nearly  
33 three thousand individuals experiencing homelessness each year;  
34 and

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36 WHEREAS, Hawaii also has programs that provide rent  
37 subsidies to qualified individuals, including the Rent  
38 Supplement Program administered by the Hawaii Public Housing  
39 Authority; now, therefore,

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41 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
42 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, the



1 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
2 Human Services is requested to:

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- (1) Develop a Housing and Health Opportunities demonstration program for the State that is similar to Arizona's Housing and Health Opportunities demonstration program; and
- (2) File a request with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to amend the State's existing section 1115 demonstration program to implement the newly created Housing and Health Opportunities demonstration program to enable direct housing costs for Medicaid recipients to be covered by the federal financial participation for Medicaid; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human Services.

OFFERED BY: 

