

Approved

2-5-90
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

The meeting was called to order by Senator Lana Oleen at
Chairperson

1:35 ~~am~~ p.m. on January 29, 1990 in room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Julian Efird - Research
Fred Carman - Revisor

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Noelle St. Clair - KS Asso. Housing & Redevelopment
Floyd West - AARP, Chanute, Ks.
Karen Hiller - Housing & Credit Counseling
Nadine Burch - Kans. Coalition on Aging
Eloise Reeves - Alliance for Mentally Ill
Lana Balka - City of Topeka Representative
Kathy Valentine - Dept. Social & Rehabilitation Services
Trudy Aron - Kansas Society of Architects
Frances Squyres - Dept. of Commerce, Housing

Hearing on:

SB 427 - Housing and housing related programs

Noelle St. Clair testified that the issue of housing should be made as important as any other economic issue by the Legislature. Without adequate housing, citizens cannot function at their potential. It is important that a housing division be emposed to advise, confer and cooperate with all functions of government. Expected duties of a Housing office were outlined.
(Attachment 1)

Floyd West testified that the Kansas Legislative Committee of AARP fully supports passage of SB 427 and endorses the recommendations of the interim committee.
(Attachment 2)

Karen Hiller, testifying as a proponent, discussed concerns of the Housing Credit Counseling: Creation of an identifiable housing office, establish a clearinghouse for federal and state data and availability to receive funds. Attention must be directed toward receipt of available funds other than federal.
(Attachment 3)

Nadine Burch stated that Kansas is the only state which does not have a formal agency for housing which is an important aspect of long term care for the elderly. Nursing homes are not always necessary nor the answer to the needs of citizens. Mrs. Burch discussed the success of the housing program in Nebraska with a focal point for collection and dissemination of information to all communities.
(Attachment 4)

Eloise Reeves gave testimony as the parent of a mentally ill son forced to live in a poverty level environment. Mrs. Reeves supported passage of this legislation as a central contact point for housing as a possible way to ensure access to decent housing for mentally ill individuals placed out of institutions.
(Attachment 5)

Trudy Aron stated a consolidation of all programs within the Department of Commerce under SB 427 is the first step in averting a major housing crisis in our state. It is crucial that all agencies, organizations and established programs have the availability to all information to avoid the growing problems of low income citizens and the homeless. The architects profession

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION,

room 123-S, Statehouse, at 1:35 ~~xxx~~ p.m. on January 29, 19 90

desires to work with government to help solve these problems.

(Attachment 6)

Lana Balka testified on behalf of Mayor Butch Felker of Topeka. Mayor Felker feels Topeka has a responsibility to help shape a plan to meet affordable housing needs. His testimony indicated that resource are needed from the federal government along with a state housing office to maximize efforts. Transference of housing programs to the Department of Commerce achieves administrative practicality and puts machinery in place to profit from future revenue sources. Directives for housing in the 1990's were expressed.

(Attachment 7)

Kathy Valentine stated SRS supports the move of housing programs to one centralized agency to improve efficiency and reduce duplication in awarding of grants. Consolidation would aid many entities involved in housing and enhance planning for new available funds. Background of housing programs under SRS were outlined for the committee.

(Attachment 8)

Chairman Oleen adjourned the meeting at 2:30 and stated the Committee will reconvene upon adjournment of the Senate to receive further testimony.

3:30 p.m. Meeting 123-S

The Committee reconvened with all interested parties present.

Frances Squyres, State Housing Director, updated the Committee on recent action taken by the Department of Commerce. An office of housing now exists within the Division of Community Development and a State Director of Housing was named in December. The responsibilities of the Director were outlined. Mrs. Squyres also believes clarification is needed in the language found in Section 2 of SB 427, as to the two federal weatherization housing rehabilitation programs. They are not referred to in the fiscal note and it is felt these should be included with the responsibilities of the Commerce Department in coordinating all entities relating to housing. She further stated the Department is in a position to act as the single point of contact for administration of housing programs.

(Attachment 9)

Committee members discussed in detail all aspects of testimony with the various conferees. The administering of energy programs currently under SRS were given emphasis as was the stated need for additional staff to administer the new office of housing. Discussion was held regarding the housing plans to be developed and programs that would be covered under this legislation.

Meeting adjourned.

The next meeting will be January 30, 1990.

GUEST LIST

COMMITTEE: SENATE GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

DATE 1/29/90

NAME	COMPANY / ORGANIZATION	ADDRESS
Kuan Hiller	Housing Credit Counseling	Topeka
Alloyd Keet	A.A.P.P	506 W 2nd Chamito Ks
Nadine Buxsi	KCOA	1195 Buchanan ^{Topeka}
Jana Balko	City of Topeka	1312 Park St. 66612
Joelle St. Clair	Kansas NAHRO	1195 SW Buchanan ^{Topeka} 66604
Michael Lechner	Ks. Commission on Disability Concerns	1430 SW Topeka, Mo.
Virginia Ashlock	League of Women Voters	800 Indiana, Law.
Francis Szymes	Kansas Department of Commerce	400 SW 8th, Suite 500
Michael Corrigan	"	"
Mike Miller	City of Topeka	215 E 7th 66603
George Goebel	AARP Capital City Task Force	711 Credit Dr Topeka
Joseph Foster	Topeka Metro News	630 S. Kansas
Ally D. Huxson	AARP Capt. City Task Force	1017 N. 25th KCK 66102
Paul Burkholder	AARP State Leg Comm.	617 N. Waver St Buhla 67522
Ray E. Johnson	AARP Capital City Task Force	1610 SW 29th St. Topeka 66604
Robert Foster Esq.	AARP " " " "	2110 N. Tenth St ^{KCK}
Martha Dodson	KCOA	1932 Collins ^{Topeka} 66604
Kathryn Valentine	SRS	624-South-Docking State
Steve Ramirez	KCCR	Landon Bldg ^{Office 812g}
PHIL DUBACH	SRS	624-S DSOB
JEFF SONNICH	KNCSI	TOPEKA
JOE RICKENBROUGH	Ks. Livestock Assoc.	Topeka
D. WAYNE ZIMMERMAN	KDOC	TOPEKA
JANET STUBBS	HBAK	Topeka
Nancy Humphrey	KMHA	Topeka
TRUDY ARSAB	Ks Soc of ARCHITECTS	"
Julie Hein	Helm + Hart	Topeka
Imogene Langdon	Student SW Intern	Topeka - Washburn
Kara France	Kansas Assoc. of REALTORs	Topeka

Ann Patterson KDOZ

TESTIMONY

Presented to:

GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE

by

Noelle St.Clair
Kansas Chapter Of The National Association Of Housing And
Redevelopment Officials

S.G.O.
ATTACH 1
1-29-90

MADAME CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE. I APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH YOU TODAY AND DISCUSS SENATE BILL 427. KANSAS NAHRO APPLAUDS THE EFFORTS OF THIS COMMITTEE FOR FOLLOWING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERIM COMMITTEE THAT STUDIED SENATE BILL 253. TAKING THE NECESSARY STEPS TO ESTABLISH A SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT TO DEAL WITH SPECIFIC ISSUES RELATED TO HOUSING IS IMPORTANT AND A NECESSARY FIRST STEP.

KANSAS NAHRO DOES NOT OBJECT TO SENATE BILL 427. YET WE FEEL STRONGLY THAT THE DUTIES OF THE HOUSING OFFICE AS OUTLINED IN SENATE BILL 253 SHOULD ALSO BE LEGISLATIVELY MANDATED. IT'S IMPERATIVE THAT THE LEGISLATURE MAKE HOUSING AS IMPORTANT AS ANY OTHER ECONOMIC ISSUE IN THE STATE. AS I'VE TALKED TO VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS ACROSS THE STATE AND REVIEWED TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 253 IT HAS BECOME APPARENT THAT HOUSING IS A MAJOR ISSUE AFFECTING KANSANS WHICH IN TURN AFFECTS OUR STATE'S ECONOMY. IF YOU DO NOT ADDRESS HOUSING YOU CAN NOT EFFECTIVELY DEAL WITH EDUCATION, JOBS, CHILD CARE ISSUES, HEALTH CARE NEEDS, OR ANY OTHER SPECIAL NEED BEING REQUESTED. WITHOUT HOUSING PEOPLE CANNOT EFFECTIVELY DEAL WITH ANY OTHER ISSUE IN THEIR LIVES. CHILDREN CANNOT BE PLACED IN SCHOOL WITHOUT AN ADDRESS, YOU CANNOT TELL AN EMPLOYER WHERE TO REACH YOU, YOU CANNOT RECEIVE CUSTODY OF YOUR CHILDREN, OR EVEN BE RELEASED FROM A HOSPITAL OR A CARE FACILITY WITHOUT A PLACE TO GO. THE DETAILS OF YOUR LIFE CANNOT BE DEALT WITH UNLESS YOU HAVE A PLACE TO GO THAT IS DECENT, SAFE AND AFFORDABLE.

IT'S IMPORTANT THAT A HOUSING DIVISION BE EMPOWERED TO ADVISE, CONFER, AND COOPERATE WITH ANY FUNCTION OF GOVERNMENT, ANY AGENCY, FOUNDATION, NON PROFIT, OR PRIVATE RESOURCES THAT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO ENABLE A HOUSING DIVISION TO BE AFFECTIVE. IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO PROVIDE A VISIBLE HOUSING OFFICE THAT WILL PERFORM CERTAIN DUTIES, SUCH AS;

- A. SERVES AS A CLEARINGHOUSE FOR INFORMATION, PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES RELATED TO AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE HOUSING;
- B. RESEARCH AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE HOUSING NEEDS, COMPILE HOUSING DATA AS IT RELATES TO AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE HOUSING IN KANSAS AND REPORT ANNUALLY TO THE KANSAS LEGISLATURE;
- C. TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WITH REGARD TO HOUSING THAT IS NOT AVAILABLE FROM EXISTING RESOURCES;
- D. TO WORK WITH EXISTING AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS AND SOCIAL PROGRAMS TO DEVELOP AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE HOUSING;
- E. TO ENCOURAGE HOME OWNERSHIP AND THE PRESERVATION AND ADAPTATION FOR ACCESSIBILITY OF EXISTING HOUSING; AND
- F. TO EXERCISE SUCH OTHER POWERS AND PERFORM SUCH OTHER DUTIES AS MAY BE SPECIFIED BY LAW.

SECRETARY PRIDDLE HAS INDICATED HOUSING IS AN IMPORTANT ISSUE. IF IT IS, YOU NEED TO BACK THE SECRETARY'S POSITION BY FORMALLY ESTABLISHING AN OFFICE OF HOUSING WITH SPECIFIC POWERS AND DUTIES.



KANSAS STATE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

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VICE CHAIRMAN
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(316) 684-2350

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6807 E. Bayley
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TESTIMONY ON SB 427
AARP STATE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
SENATE GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE
JANUARY 29, 1990

Madame Chairman and members of the Senate Governmental Organization Committee:

I am Floyd West of Chanute, Kansas, a member of the State Legislative Committee of the American Association of Retired Persons.

This year the State Legislative Committee of AARP has as one of its support items the "Establishment of a State Office of Housing." You will find attached to this testimony a summary of our research and our position on this matter.

The Kansas State Legislative Committee supports passage of Senate Bill 427 which would provide, if enacted, for the "transfer of housing related programs at SRS to the Department of Commerce and create a single point of contact for the administration of housing programs."

The State Legislative Committee of AARP also endorses that portion of the conclusions and recommendations of the Interim Study on housing which states "The Committee further recommends, however, that the Kansas Legislature, the appropriate state agencies, and other interest parties continue to monitor the progress of federal housing initiatives which might require the creation of a more formal housing office at a future date."

We thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 427.



KANSAS STATE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

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KANSAS AARP STATE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE POSITION PAPER
FOR 1990 LEGISLATIVE SESSION SUPPORT ITEM

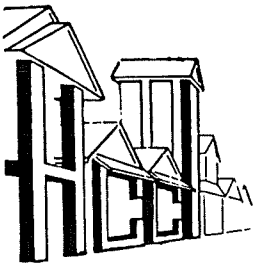
ESTABLISHMENT OF A STATE HOUSING OFFICE

Problem: Kansas is one of only a very few states in the United States that does not have a State Housing Office. Coupled with this fact is the diminished role of the Federal Government in housing during the past eight years. Historically, the federal role has been the provision of housing for low income populations (new construction, rehabilitation and rent subsidies). As a result, in recent years the role of the Federal Government, in housing matters, has been fading and the role of State Government in housing has become increasingly more crucial and more important.

Solution: The State of Kansas should recognize the need and the advantages to establish, by legislative action, a separate and distinct "Office of Housing" to more adequately serve citizens, local units of governments and housing developers.

Proposal: The AARP State Legislative Committee recommends the enactment of legislation establishing a "State of Kansas Office of Housing" that incorporates the following:

1. A recognizable Office of Housing with a separate and distinct identity.
2. Sufficiently funded.
3. Sufficiently staffed.
4. To serve as an information gathering office.
5. To serve as an information dissemination office.



Housing & Credit Counseling Inc

1195 SW Buchanan Suite 203
Topeka, Kansas 66604-1183
(913) 234-0217

TESTIMONY RE: SB 427

JANUARY 29, 1990

KAREN A. HILLER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PRESENTING

On behalf of Housing and Credit Counseling, Inc., I speak today in support of SB 427. Our board of directors voted last year to formally support SB 253, and we continue that support at this time.

We commend this committee for its recognition of the importance of housing issues in its consideration of SB 253 in the last session and the referral of SB 253 to interim committee.

Through you, we commend the interim committee for its attention to what became Proposition 27 and the issues raised in the testimony there.

The resulting committee bill, SB 427, addresses the three issues (detailed below) which were highlighted most in testimony, and we appreciate that. We feel that the bill, as it is now stated, provides a framework which is excellent. we do, however, feel that the bill merits some re-examination, with subsequent addition of some detail and accountability.

The following details our concerns, by area:

1) Creation of an identifiable housing office -- Needs to be formalized in this legislation, with minimum staffing level identified, funding source identified (not necessarily new funding), and accountability built in, perhaps through adding "sunset" provisions.

You know that at this point we have an administratively, not a legislatively, created position of state housing director. What happened was that there was a position in the Department of Commerce that had been vacant and unfilled for a period of time, so it was renamed and Frances Squyres was transferred into it. If Ms. Squyres left at some point, could we as easily lose the position?



HUD Comprehensive
Counseling Agency



Consumer Credit
Counseling Service



United Way
of Greater Topeka

S.G.O.
ATTACH 3
1-29-90

Ms. Squyres had previously held the position of Low Income Tax Credit Coordinator (maybe not the exact title, but that is what she did). At this time she, in her new position of state Housing Director, is supervising only her replacement. The other functions that are to be brought over from SRS are, as we understand it, to be melded into the Community Development division. Maybe that is OK, but it gives us concern as to how prominently the housing position is being viewed administratively.

Regarding the new sub-department's identifiability, we are afraid that we (you, the committee, and us, the housing advocates that have pursued this issue) are the only ones who know it is there. There was some publicity during the last session and over the summer but its headlines, in Topeka anyway, said things like "Priddle Opposed. . ." Staff advises us that a press release about Ms. Squyres' appointment was sent to the press, but at this point, no one has seen it printed anywhere. Has there been followup? With only one staff person and no legislative mandate, the rest of us have been uncertain and hesitant to promote.

Regarding funding, as noted in the summary statement above, we are not sure that new money is needed, but we are convinced that it must be clearly identified. Obviously, Commerce was able to target some existing funding to create a position when the Low Income Housing Tax Credit came through a couple of years ago. They were able to do it again to create the Housing Director position. New funding for these positions would be ideal, but we realize that these are difficult economic times. Could funding be found a couple more times for some support staff? Could all of these positions and their funding be legislatively mandated so they are not lost?

2) Clearinghouse function -- Needs to be mandated, with some detail.

Will there be enough staff to do this without a legislative mandate from you? Will the generic data bank and dissemination be developed and maintained?

Information and data on housing status and affordability will be needed at the state level as documentation to compete for federal and other funding grants. (Without a doubt, the new federal HUD block grants to states will require comprehensive state housing plans; others always for documentation of need as well.) Localities, nonprofits and community groups need this data to apply for state-administered grants; and the state will need the data to properly evaluate proposals. Further, this data will be of

invaluable importance to the variety of groups, as well as the state itself, when opportunities arise to compete, directly from the local level or from the state level, for funding or technical assistance from other sources.

At a minimum, a clearinghouse should be actively collecting both permanent and time-limited data about our housing stock, our housing needs, and program and funding opportunities to meet those needs. It should be aware of and in touch with individuals and groups that are involved with housing issues in localities around the state. It should be constantly making itself known and available to the community for inquiries, and should be actively disseminating its information, probably with a newsletter. We are concerned that one person alone, with no designated support staff or operating budget (space, telephone, postage, pencils, etc), could not adequately handle this function.

Clearly, we feel that this clearinghouse function should be a generic and ongoing one, not simply occasional hurried data collection to meet a deadline and specific requirements for a state-level grant application. A little historical support for this concern is that Ms. Squyres was asked about 18 months ago by Secretary Priddle to develop a "white paper" on housing, as the housing issue was first beginning to build at the Commerce Department level. She started work on it but, as she has explained it, a major legal issue came up in the department. Because she is an attorney, she was asked to divert her attention from the white paper to the legal issue. The white paper was never finished. Without a clear legislative mandate that collection of this data is not negotiable, could this happen again?

3) Availability to receive funds -- Needs to be broadened to recognize that other sources, not just federal, might be available.

The legislation, as it stands, does an excellent and thorough job of detailing the transfer of HUD-funded programs from SRS to Commerce. There has been an assumption that the only programs involved are HUD Homeless and Section 8 programs. There will certainly be increased administrative efficiency in having all HUD-funded grants in one state department and we support that. There are, however, weatherization grants in two different state-level departments. Have they been evaluated and considered for transfer? The same language, identifying the additional programs, could be used to transfer the other programs as well, if the legislature chooses.

Of equal, or perhaps more, concern to us is that the language in Section 2 refers only to receipt of federal funds. Other funds in the recent past such as the oil-overcharge money, Robert Wood Foundation grants, and Hands Across America have been available to go to and through states for housing. Staff and the public, now and in the future, will be looking at this legislation for the scope of their charge. We don't want to set our scope too narrowly. Not only do we want to actively open ourselves up to all of the funds and technical assistance we can find, but most federal programs are going to require non-federal "match" money. The more broadly we build our data-bases and our contacts, and the more broadly we seek assistance, the more successful we will be.

Thank you again for your time, your interest, and your support. We would be happy to answer any questions now, or at your convenience later. Please contact Karen Hiller at Housing and Credit Counseling, Inc. at 234-0217 or at her home at 232-2917.



KCOA

KANSAS COALITION ON AGING

1195 S.W. Buchanan, Topeka, KS 66604

Telephone: (913) 232-1456

DEDICATED TO THE IMPROVEMENT IN QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL KANSANS

Testimony on SB 427
Senate Governmental Organization Committee
January 29, 1990
Presented by Nadine Burch

Chairman Oleen and members of the committee, my name is Nadine Burch. I am the Senior Advocate with the Kansas Coalition on Aging. I appear before you today to urge you to support SB 427.

Since I know that there will be many conferees who will speak in support of this bill, I will briefly address the issue from the perspective of the housing needs of the frail elderly. The increasing expenditure on long term care is a budgetary fact of life. As we explore means of containing growth in the long term care budget, we should pay close attention to the role of housing in the long term care system.

The frail elderly are the primary recipients of long term care. In order to contain long term care costs we need to assure that people receive appropriate care in the least expensive setting. Many of the people who need long term care don't have medical needs and don't need to be in a nursing home. Many can receive the care they need in their own home if adequately funded in-home services are available. Others may need to live in congregate housing where supportive services are available.

Congregate housing services for the frail elderly are in short supply in Kansas. I attribute this problem to the fact that we do not have a focal point for the collection and dissemination of information about housing in state government. There is an example of an excellent congregate housing program just across the state line in Falls City, Nebraska which provides supportive services to low-income seniors in a public housing project. The costs to the state of Nebraska are minimal and the potential savings in nursing home costs are significant. As an officer in the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, I have seen other successful examples of this type of project and have noted a trend in elderly housing at the Department of Housing and Urban Development to begin to look at providing services to occupants of elderly housing in addition to shelter

In order to replicate these projects in Kansas, I believe that we need a focal point for the collection and dissemination of information to communities which are interested in these programs. I believe that the consolidation of state housing functions in the Department of Commerce is an important first step in addressing the housing needs of the frail elderly in the state of Kansas. I would also add that I believe that the Legislature can take an additional positive step by passing SB 253 which would provide statutory recognition to the housing office and outline the duties of the office.

I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you this morning and urge you to support SB 427.

S.G.O.
ATTACH 4
1-29-90

TO: Governmental Organization Committee

RE: Senate Bills 427 and 253

DATE: January 29, 1990

I am Eloise Reeves and reside in Wichita. I am a member of the Kansas Mental Health Planning Team on Housing and the Kansas Alliance for the Mentally Ill of which I am currently serving as Vice-President. But, in reality, the only credibility I have to speak to you is my experience in dealing with a son who suffers from long-term mental illness and has been in the system for ten years. In my attempt to secure appropriate, affordable, decent housing for him I have encountered frustration, anguish, and anger.

My son has been forced to live in a poverty level environment. The term psychiatric ghetto became a reality as he moved to various group homes which were all located in the poverty stricken, highly criminal areas of Wichita. He has the normal desire of all of us to live in a decent home not a group living situation where he has shared one room with three other strangers and received a fourth of a closet and two drawers for his possessions. Would you call that home if you lived there? A real home is a place where you feel you belong, where you can have some privacy, and where you feel comfortable and safe.

The last residence he lived in before his most recent stay in Topeka State Hospital didn't even have a furnace. He had to open the oven door on the gas stove in the kitchen for heat.

S.G.O.
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Presently he lives in a converted one car garage apartment with his wife who is also disabled. They receive a little over \$500 a month in Social Security Disability and SSI payments. They pay \$450 a month for the apartment. This includes no food or laundry privileges. It does include a ride to the grocery store once a week and two trips a month to the laundromat. My husband and I must, for their survival, supplement them with food and clothing which amounts to \$400 to \$500 a month.

If you are disabled, does that mean you don't deserve a safe, decent, affordable place to live? When you are disabled, do you require less food and clothing? How inhumane of us as a society to burden our disabled populations not only with the stress and trauma of their disabilities, but also with a poverty level existence.

I ask for your support of Senate Bills 427 and 253 to insure the civil God given right for my son to have access to safe, decent, affordable housing. These bills mandate establishment of a housing office. In addition, staff of more than one person is essential in order for the office to be effective.

We've de-institutionalized our people with mental illness to the streets. To a state of homelessness. It is our responsibility to correct this injustice and help them access a decent place to live, a home.



THE KANSAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS, AIA

A Chapter of the American Institute of Architects

The Jayhawk Tower 700 Jackson, Suite 209 Topeka, KS 66603 913•357•5308

TO: Members of the Senate Governmental
Organization Committee

FROM: Trudy Aron and the Kansas Society of
Architects

RE: **SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 427**

The Kansas Society of Architects supports Senate Bill 427 which consolidates all housing and housing assistance programs within the Department of Commerce.

One of the most important challenges facing America in the next decade is the availability and affordability of housing. The number of low income households is increasing while the number of low rent housing units is shrinking. Many concede that a virtual halt in new construction of housing for the poor has led to a general decline in home ownership, skyrocketing rents and rising homelessness.

The American dream of home ownership is beyond the reach of more and more middle class Americans. What most of us took for granted, will become difficult or impossible for our children to obtain.

We believe that the consolidation of all programs within the Department of Commerce is the first step in averting a major housing crisis in our State. Information regarding the problems of affordable and accessible housing exists, however, there is currently no statewide retrieval point. In addition, it is crucial that the State work with the various agencies, organizations and programs which others currently have. Coordination, information gathering and dissemination, and research based on the needs of citizens in Kansas are necessary to address one of today's major problems.

The American Institute of Architects, of which we are a Chapter, has been involved with the issues of affordability and homelessness for a number of years. We want to work with the State in finding solutions for the housing problems we face today and those we will face tomorrow. We believe this problem, like many, is not only an issue to be handled by government. We believe that working together, government and private enterprise can find solutions to problems, including those of housing our citizens.

We urge your support of Senate Bill 427.

PRESIDENT
Edward M. Koser, AIA

PRESIDENT-ELECT
Eugene Kremer, FAIA

SECRETARY
David G. Emig, AIA

TREASURER
Peter Gierer, AIA

DIRECTOR
John H. Brewer, AIA

DIRECTOR
Kent F. Spreckelmeyer, AIA

DIRECTOR
Vincent Mancini, AIA

DIRECTOR
Donnie D. Marrs, AIA

DIRECTOR
Skyler W. Harper, AIA

DIRECTOR
Steven A. Scannell, AIA

DIRECTOR
F. Lynn Walker, AIA

PAST-PRESIDENT
Vance W. Liston, AIA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Trudy Aron

S.G.O.
ATTACH 6
1-29-90



CITY OF TOPEKA

Harry "Butch" Felker, Mayor
215 E. 7th Street Room 352
Topeka, Kansas 66603
Phone 913-295-3895
Fax Number 913-295-3850

January 29, 1990

Senator Lana Oleen, Chairman
Governmental Organization Committee
of the Kansas Senate
State Capitol Building
Topeka, Kansas 66612

RE: Support of Senate Bill Number 427

Senator Oleen and Members of the Governmental Organization
Committee:

In a recently published survey sponsored by the National League of
Cities, forty-two percent (42%) of cities think housing
affordability is a "worsening condition", third on the list behind
drugs and the cost of living.

As Mayor of Topeka, I believe our city must assume responsibility
in shaping a plan to meet our unique affordable housing needs.

I also believe that we need resources from the federal government,
involvement of the private sector and an effective state housing
office equipped with data and resource information that can assist
us to appropriately target and maximize our housing efforts.

The City of Topeka has a history of commitment to citizens needing
a hand up. Our local human service network is extremely
functional; however, in the course of helping people to become
self-sufficient, permanent, affordable housing is a milestone we
can not achieve without co-operation from federal and state
efforts.

There are long waiting lists for government subsidized housing.
Housing for specialized populations is either not available or not
affordable. The cost of non-subsidized housing is out of reach for
many working families.

Another recent National League of Cities report, which focused on
children and families, found that among local officials surveyed,
the need for affordable housing cut across income levels, family
type and city size to represent the fastest growing problem facing
urban families. The report went on to say that during the past
fifteen years, housing costs have risen almost three times faster
than incomes.

S.G.O.
ATTACH 7
1-29-90

A study done by researcher Fredrick Reamer reported that a thirty-year old in 1949 could buy a home using fourteen percent (14%) of his or her income. Today this figure is forty-four percent (44%).

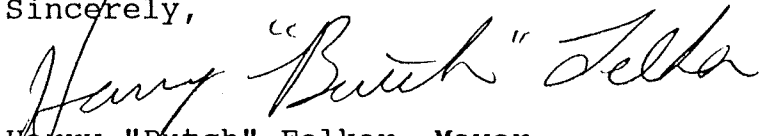
Having a sizeable homeless population is not something any city is proud of. The fact that the homeless population continues to grow in Topeka is evidence of inter-related social and economic ills. Another nationwide survey found that forty-three percent (43%) of school age homeless children were not attending school. In 1987, it was estimated that 200,000 youths were homeless annually.

Senate Bill 427, by transferring housing programs administered by the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services to the Department of Commerce, achieves administrative practicality and puts machinery in place to profit from future revenue sources that address the following housing directions of the 1990's:

- tying housing and human services more closely together
- receiving and allocating federal government money available on the condition that states and local governments meet match requirements
- targeting of housing resources
- emphasizing home ownership and long-term affordability
- implementing new roles for state and local governments

Achieving decent, affordable housing without reliance on the federal government housing programs is a new arena for municipalities and state governments and I look forward to the State of Kansas being an active partner in Topeka's affordable housing endeavors.

Sincerely,



Harry "Butch" Felker, Mayor
City of Topeka, Kansas

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES

Winston Barton, Secretary

Testimony before
Committee on Governmental Organization

January 29, 1990

Kathy Valentine
Social Services Administrator
296-3349

John W. Alquest
Commissioner, Income Maintenance
and Medical Services
296-6750

560
ATTACH 8
1-29-90

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES
Winston Barton, Secretary
Statement Regarding: SB 427

Title:

An act concerning housing and housing related programs; designating the Department of Commerce as the official state agency for purposes of compliance with federal housing and housing related acts and programs; transferring certain powers, duties and functions from the Secretary and Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS) to the Secretary and Department of Commerce; repealing K.S.A. 75-5340.

Purpose:

Senate Bill 427 would consolidate housing programs administered by SRS and Commerce and assign any new housing responsibilities to Commerce.

Background:

SRS currently administers three housing programs funded by Housing and Urban Development (HUD):

- 1) Section 8 New Construction Program
- 2) Section 8 Existing Housing Program 113
- 3) Emergency Shelter Grant Program 41.

The two Section 8 Programs were transferred from Kansas Department of Economic Development to SRS on July 1, 1986 after its Housing Division was abolished. The Emergency Shelter Grant Program was a new federal program received by SRS in May 1987.

Commerce administers three HUD-funded programs:

- 1) Rental Rehabilitation Program
- 2) Low Income Tax Credit Program
- 3) Housing Assistance through the Community Development Block Grant Program

Effect of Passage:

Housing program funds are 100% federally funded by HUD. All revenues including those for administrative allowances, authorized housing program expenditure levels, program duties, and one FTE will be transferred from SRS to Commerce effective July 1, 1990.

Recommendation:

SRS supports the move of State government's housing programs to one centralized agency to improve state efficiency and reduce potential for duplication in awarding grants. Such action would provide a single point of contact for businesses, developers, local governments, and others needing housing information. Consolidation would also enhance comprehensive planning for the administration of new HUD block grant funds being considered by Congress.

John W. Alquest
Commissioner of Income Maintenance
and Medical Services

TESTIMONY

Presented to:

SENATE GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE ON

SENATE BILL 427

by

Frances A. Squyres
Director of Housing
Community Development Division
Kansas Department of Commerce

January 29, 1990

S.G.O.
ATTACH 9
1-29-90

Madam Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I appreciate the opportunity to meet with you today to discuss Senate Bill 427.

First, I would like to bring you up-to-date on recent action taken by the Department of Commerce concerning housing.

An Office of Housing now exists within the Division of Community Development, and last December a State Director of Housing was named.

The responsibilities of the Director are:

- A. To serve as a clearinghouse and single point of contact for the state regarding information, programs, and resources related to affordable and accessible housing.
- B. To provide access and management of national housing programs for delivery to the citizens and businesses of Kansas.
- C. To work with existing agencies, organizations, and social programs to assist in the development of affordable and accessible housing.
- D. To exercise such powers and perform other duties as may be specified by law.

Pending federal housing legislation would require each state to have a housing plan in order to receive federal housing funds. As director of housing, one of my responsibilities is to draft such a plan for the state. Therefore, should the federal funds become available, Kansas will be in a position to participate.

The issue before us concerns the administration of programs related to housing subsidies currently placed in Social and Rehabilitation Services. In the event you desire to consolidate these programs into the Department of Commerce to allow a single point of contact for the administration of housing, the Kansas Department of Commerce is ready to accept the responsibility associated with such action.

The Kansas Department of Commerce requests a clarification of the bill.

The language found in Section 2 states, "Whenever the designation of a state agency is required by any federal act or program under which federal financial assistance is made available for housing or housing related purposes, the department of commerce shall serve as the officially designated state agency of Kansas and such department shall be responsible for exercising the powers and performing the functions and duties required of state agencies under such federal acts and programs."

There are two federal weatherization housing rehabilitation programs which are not contained in our fiscal note. As I stated, part of my responsibility as director is to work with existing agencies to assist in the development of housing, therefore, the Kansas Department of Commerce could serve as coordinator for these programs. Or, is the intent of S.B. 427, to transfer the administration of these programs to the Kansas Department of Commerce?

In summary, we have positioned ourselves to administer and deliver programs currently available within the Kansas Department of Commerce.

Should you determine that the transfer of housing-related programs at Social and Rehabilitation Services to Department of Commerce will promote governmental efficiency and provide greater public access to information on housing programs, the Kansas Department of Commerce is in a position to act as the single point of contact for the administration of housing programs.