

## RESOLUTION

Subject: Affordable Housing a Public Health Crisis in Kentucky  
Submitted by: Northern Kentucky Medical Society  
Referred to: Reference Committee

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WHEREAS, the number of Kentuckians experiencing homelessness increased by nearly 10% from 2023 and 2024<sup>1</sup>; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky House Bill 5 has outlined criminal ramifications for unlawful camping in public or private areas<sup>2</sup>; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky has no requirement for each county to establish emergency shelters for individuals experiencing homelessness, leaving individuals in rural counties particularly vulnerable during periods of housing insecurity; and

WHEREAS, structural factors, such as housing supply and affordability, contribute to housing instability and homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the supply of for-rent and for-sale housing units in Kentucky is inadequate to meet the population's housing needs, resulting in a housing shortfall of more than 206,000 units in 2024<sup>3</sup>; and

WHEREAS, for-rent availability gaps are most pronounced among community members earning less than 30% of the area median income - this population faces a rental housing shortfall of greater than 60,000 units<sup>3</sup>; and

WHEREAS, the cost of housing is most detrimental to the lowest-earning community members, as 30% of renters spend  $\geq 50\%$  of their income on housing costs<sup>1,4</sup>; and

WHEREAS, the prohibitive supply and cost of housing lead individuals to give up healthcare, food, and other necessities in order to make rent/mortgage payments<sup>4</sup>; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that KMA recognizes the affordable housing deficit in Kentucky as a public health crisis that requires solutions to address structural factors, including the establishment of year-round emergency shelters in underserved counties and increased housing supply.

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**References:**

1. The US Department of Housing and Human Services. (2024). *The 2024 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress*. <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2024-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>.
2. An act relating to crimes and punishments. 24 RS HB 5. (2024). <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/24rs/hb5.html>.
3. Kentucky Housing Corporation. (2024, June 24). *Kentucky's Housing Supply Gap*. <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/CommitteeDocuments/384/30986/Jun%2024%202024%20KHC%20Powerpoint.pdf>.
4. National Low Income Housing Coalition. (2023). *Housing Needs by State: Kentucky*. <https://nlihc.org/housing-needs-by-state/kentucky>.