

RESOLUTION NO. 040513-19

WHEREAS, 3.5 million people, 39% (thirty-nine percent) of them children, currently experience homelessness every year, with families among the fastest-growing sectors of the population; and

WHEREAS, the average homeless family consists of 1 parent and 2 children; and

WHEREAS, 67% of the 1,698 homeless individuals in Austin are children; and

WHEREAS, in Austin on any given day there is an estimate of 1,138 children homeless; and

WHEREAS, on any given day in Austin, 945 adults and children living in families need a shelter or transitional housing bed but do not have one because none are available in the community; and

WHEREAS, the Bringing America Home Act, currently pending in the 108th Congress, 2nd Session, is designed to end homelessness in the United States and includes housing, health, income and civil rights components; and

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation represents the most comprehensive initiative to date to address modern homelessness and is based on research, data, and the experience of front line providers and advocates; and

WHEREAS, the housing title of the bill increases funding for crucial programs to ensure access to and creation of affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, the health title of the bill increases funding crucial programs and includes a *Sense of Congress* supporting the enactment of legislation to guarantee that every person in the United States, including the over 42 million Americans without health insurance, has access to comprehensive, quality, affordable health care; and

WHEREAS, the income title of the bill includes a *Sense of Congress* supporting a Universal Living Wage and livable incomes, Temporary Worker Fairness and Protection, Development of a Self-Sufficiency Standard, and the establishment of a 'Homebuild' Program; and

WHEREAS, in the City of Austin 42% of renter households pay more than 30% of their income for rent; and

WHEREAS, a unit is considered affordable if it costs no more than 30% of the renter's income; and

WHEREAS, there are more than 471, 855 households in Austin; and

WHEREAS, in the City of Austin 42% of renter households pay more than 30% of their income for rent; and

WHEREAS, an individual citizen in Austin must earn \$13.36 per hour working 40 hours per week to afford a two bedroom unit at the Fair Market rent. This is 259% of the present \$5.15 minimum wage. Moreover, an individual citizen in Austin working at minimum wage would have to work at least 104 hours per week to afford a two bedroom unit; and

WHEREAS, in the City of Austin 42% of renter households pay more than 30% of their income for rent; and

WHEREAS, a minimum wage earner (earning \$5.15 per hour) can afford monthly rent of no more than \$268.00, while the Fair Market Rent for a one-bedroom unit \$543.00; and

WHEREAS, of the 220,000 persons living in the city of Austin, 29% of that population are without health insurance; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

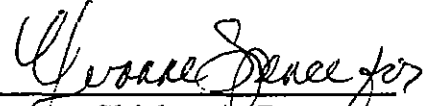
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Council supports the passage of the Bringing America Home Act of 2003, currently pending in the 108th Congress, and its goals of ending homelessness.

The City Council supports the passage of this resolution expressing the Austin City Council's support for the establishment of the Bringing America Home Act, which is a comprehensive bill to end homelessness that addresses issues of affordable housing, livable income, civil rights protections, and health care for all.

ADOPTED: May 13, 2004

ATTEST:


Shirley A. Brown
City Clerk