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(Original Signature of Member)

108TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. \_\_\_\_\_

To establish a grant program administered under an agreement among the Secretaries of Housing and Urban Development, Health and Human Services, and Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, to address the goal of ending chronic homelessness through coordinated provision of housing, health care, mental health and substance abuse treatment, supportive and other services, including assistance in accessing non-homeless specific benefits and services, and for other purposes.

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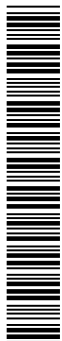
## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. RENZI introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee  
on \_\_\_\_\_

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# A BILL

To establish a grant program administered under an agreement among the Secretaries of Housing and Urban Development, Health and Human Services, and Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, to address the goal of ending chronic homelessness through coordinated provision of housing, health care, mental health and substance abuse treatment, supportive and other services, including assistance



in accessing non-homeless specific benefits and services,  
and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Samaritan Initiative  
5 Act of 2004”.

6 **SEC. 2. SAMARITAN INITIATIVE.**

7 Title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance  
8 Act (42 U.S.C. 11136 *et seq.*) is amended by adding at  
9 the end the following new subtitle:

10 **“Subtitle H—Samaritan Initiative**

11 **“SEC. 495. PURPOSE.**

12 “The purpose of the Samaritan Initiative is to au-  
13 thorize competitive grants for coordinated comprehensive  
14 housing, treatment, and support services to chronically  
15 homeless persons to accomplish the following objectives:

16 “(1) To reduce the prevalence of chronic home-  
17 lessness.

18 “(2) To support promising strategies to move  
19 chronically homeless persons in urban and rural  
20 communities from the streets to safe, permanent  
21 housing.

22 “(3) To provide for integrated systems of serv-  
23 ices to improve the effectiveness of programs serving  
24 chronically homeless persons.



1           “(4) To promote self-sufficiency and recovery  
2 among chronically homeless persons.

3           “(5) To encourage programs serving chronically  
4 homeless persons to promote access to Federal,  
5 State, and local non-homeless specific programs of  
6 assistance for which such persons are eligible.

7 **“SEC. 495A. GRANT AUTHORITY AND ADMINISTRATION.**

8           “(a) IN GENERAL.—The participating Federal agen-  
9 cies shall enter into an agreement among the agencies to  
10 make and administer competitive grants to eligible enti-  
11 ties, including faith-based and community-based organiza-  
12 tions, in accordance with the provisions of this subtitle for  
13 the purpose of providing treatment and support services  
14 that are coordinated with housing for chronically homeless  
15 persons.

16           “(b) ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITY.—

17           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The agreement authorized  
18 under subsection (a) shall designate the Secretary of  
19 Housing and Urban Development as the admin-  
20 istering Secretary.

21           “(2) DELEGATIONS.—No provision of this sub-  
22 title shall be construed as limiting the ability of the  
23 participating Federal agencies to delegate, assign, or  
24 share administrative responsibilities as the partici-



1       pating Federal agencies may determine to be nec-  
2       essary or appropriate.

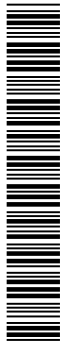
3       “(c) COORDINATION AMONG PARTICIPATING FED-  
4       ERAL AGENCIES.—The administering Secretary shall co-  
5       ordinate with other participating Federal agencies to im-  
6       plement and administer the grant program established  
7       under this subtitle.

8       “(d) INTERAGENCY IMPLEMENTATION AND MONI-  
9       TORING TEAM.—The participating Federal agencies shall  
10      establish an interagency implementation and monitoring  
11      team to review and conduct oversight of program grantees  
12      under this subtitle. Each participating Federal agency  
13      shall appoint appropriate designees to serve on the imple-  
14      mentation and monitoring team.

15      “(e) COORDINATION REQUIREMENTS.—

16              “(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the grant  
17      program under this subtitle, the interagency imple-  
18      mentation and monitoring team shall establish uni-  
19      form or coordinated requirements, standards, proce-  
20      dures, and timetables to the maximum extent fea-  
21      sible and appropriate.

22              “(2) APPLICABILITY.—The general principle set  
23      forth in paragraph (1) shall be implemented by the  
24      interagency implementation and monitoring team  
25      with respect to—



1           “(A) application procedures and grant re-  
2           quirements, including those providing for—

3                   “(i) a single consolidated application  
4                   form; and

5                   “(ii) a single timetable, location, and  
6                   procedure for filing of a consolidated appli-  
7                   cation;

8           “(B) criteria for award of grants;

9           “(C) a coordinated process for review and  
10           approval or denial of the consolidated applica-  
11           tion;

12           “(D) establishment of performance stand-  
13           ards and measures of performance outcomes,  
14           including —

15                   “(i) the requirement that the Sec-  
16                   retary of Housing and Urban Development  
17                   attempt to quantify the reduction in chron-  
18                   ic homelessness; and

19                   “(ii) the requirement that, where ap-  
20                   plicable, the grantees utilize a Homeless  
21                   Management Information System;

22           “(E) oversight, including monitoring, au-  
23           dits, and evaluations of grantees, and require-  
24           ments for annual reports by grantees; and



1           “(F) other factors that the interagency im-  
2           plementation and monitoring team determines  
3           are necessary or appropriate.

4           “(3) PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT.—

5           “(A) Subject to paragraph (1), the inter-  
6           agency implementation and monitoring team  
7           shall establish such performance standards, per-  
8           formance measures, and annual reporting re-  
9           quirements and make such performance reviews  
10          and audits as may be necessary or appropriate  
11          for the following purposes:

12                   “(i) To determine whether a grantee  
13                   has carried out its activities in a timely  
14                   manner and in accordance with applicable  
15                   requirements of this subtitle;

16                   “(ii) To assess the effectiveness of a  
17                   grantee in accomplishing the objectives of  
18                   this subtitle; and

19                   “(iii) Other such purposes as the  
20                   interagency implementation and moni-  
21                   toring team may deem significant with re-  
22                   spect to the performance assessment of a  
23                   grantee.

24           “(B) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
25          may provide program monitoring and evaluation



1 services and staff to participating Federal agen-  
2 cies. In such cases, participating Federal agen-  
3 cies may reimburse such Secretary, as appro-  
4 priate.

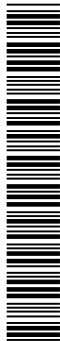
5 “(f) PROVISIONS AND REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE  
6 TO GRANTS UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A grantee under this sub-  
8 title shall establish and operate a system of assist-  
9 ance to chronically homeless persons that identifies  
10 such persons and provides to such persons access to  
11 affordable permanent housing that is coordinated  
12 with appropriate treatment and support.

13 “(2) REQUIRED GRANTEE ACTIVITIES.—A  
14 grantee under this subtitle shall carry out, directly  
15 or through arrangements with a network of other  
16 entities, the following:

17 “(A) HOUSING ACTIVITIES.—Eligible ac-  
18 tivities specified in section 495B(a) that ensure  
19 the placement of chronically homeless persons  
20 in safe, affordable, permanent housing.

21 “(B) TREATMENT AND SUPPORT ACTIVI-  
22 TIES.—Eligible activities specified in section  
23 495C(a) to address the multiple physical health,  
24 mental health, and substance abuse treatment  
25 needs of chronically homeless persons who are



1 eligible for or residents in housing under section  
2 495B(a).

3 “(C) SERVICE COORDINATION.—Activities,  
4 including those coordinated with local planning  
5 bodies, that promote the access of eligible  
6 chronically homeless persons to a range of serv-  
7 ices that contribute to self-sufficiency, recovery,  
8 employment, stability in housing, and access to  
9 health care.

10 “(D) ADMINISTRATION.—Administrative  
11 and planning activities, including the develop-  
12 ment and implementation of comprehensive  
13 plans for housing and services at the grantee  
14 level with costs not to exceed 6 percent of total  
15 costs of carrying out the program under this  
16 subtitle.

17 “(E) OTHER SERVICES.—Such services  
18 and activities as the participating Federal agen-  
19 cies may find necessary and appropriate.

20 “(3) CRITERIA FOR GRANT AWARD.—The cri-  
21 teria for the award of grants under this subtitle  
22 shall include the following:

23 “(A) the extent to which the applicant  
24 demonstrates an understanding of the unique  
25 characteristics of chronically homeless persons;



1           “(B) the adequacy of the applicant’s ap-  
2           proach in addressing the needs of the chron-  
3           ically homeless;

4           “(C) the capacity of the applicant to carry  
5           out and sustain required activities;

6           “(D) where services are to be provided  
7           through a network of entities, the adequacy of  
8           the qualifications of such entities and the stated  
9           willingness of such entities to collaborate and  
10          participate in carrying out proposed activities;

11          “(E) the extent to which the applicant has  
12          been involved in Federal, State, or local non-  
13          homeless specific programs of assistance that  
14          could provide additional assistance to eligible  
15          chronically homeless persons;

16          “(F) the commitment and the dem-  
17          onstrated ability of the applicant to enumerate  
18          the reduction in the number of chronically  
19          homeless persons; and

20          “(G) such additional criteria as the partici-  
21          pating Federal agencies may deem significant  
22          or necessary with respect to the applicant’s po-  
23          tential success in carrying out the purpose of  
24          this subtitle.



1           “(4) INITIAL TERM OF GRANT.—Notwith-  
2 standing any other provision of law, each grant shall  
3 be for an initial term of 3 years.

4           “(5) GRANT RENEWAL.—The participating  
5 Federal agencies may award on a competitive basis  
6 a renewal grant under this subtitle for additional 3-  
7 year terms, subject to the grantee’s continued quali-  
8 fication for the grant as determined by the partici-  
9 pating Federal agencies. The amount of a renewal  
10 grant under this paragraph may be up to 50 percent  
11 of the cost of the program.

12           “(6) FEDERAL MATCHING.—

13           “(A) IN GENERAL.—A grant under this  
14 subtitle shall be available to pay the Federal  
15 share of the costs incurred by the grantee for  
16 activities under this subtitle.

17           “(B) FEDERAL SHARE.—For purposes of  
18 subparagraph (A), the Federal share shall be  
19 75 percent of the cost of the program for the  
20 first year of the grant, 75 percent for the sec-  
21 ond year, and 50 percent for each succeeding  
22 year, including each year of a renewal grant  
23 term under paragraph (5).



1           “(C) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-  
2           Federal share of costs incurred by the grantee  
3           may be in cash or in-kind, as appropriate.

4           “(7) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—The partici-  
5           pating Federal agencies shall ensure that consider-  
6           ation is given to geographic distribution (such as  
7           urban and rural areas) in the awarding of grants  
8           under subsection (a).

9           “(8) DISCLOSURE.—Section 12(a) of the De-  
10          partment of Housing and Urban Development Act  
11          (42 U.S.C. 3537a(a)) shall not apply to this subtitle.

12          “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

13          “(1) There are authorized to be appropriated to  
14          carry out this subtitle \$70,000,000 for fiscal year  
15          2005, of which—

16                 “(A) \$50,000,000 is authorized to be ap-  
17                 propriated to the Department of Housing and  
18                 Urban Development;

19                 “(B) \$10,000,000 is authorized to be ap-  
20                 propriated to the Department of Health and  
21                 Human Services; and

22                 “(C) Up to \$10,000,000 is authorized  
23                 from the amounts to be appropriated to the De-  
24                 partment of Veterans Affairs for treatment of



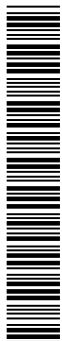
1 homeless veterans under *Medical Care* to carry  
2 out section 495D.

3 “(2) There are authorized to be appropriated  
4 such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal  
5 years 2006, 2007, and 2008.

6 “(h) AUTHORITY TO CONSOLIDATE FUNDS.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of carrying  
8 out the program under this subtitle, in accordance  
9 with the agreement under subsection (a), the partici-  
10 pating Federal agencies are authorized to transfer to  
11 the administering Secretary funds appropriated for  
12 use under this subtitle, and the administering Sec-  
13 retary may receive such funds.

14 “(2) CONSTRUCTION.—In the event that, not-  
15 withstanding subsection (g), funds are not appro-  
16 priated for use in accordance with this subtitle to  
17 one or more participating Federal agencies in any  
18 fiscal year, paragraph (1) shall not be construed to  
19 require a participating Federal agency that has been  
20 provided with budget authority pursuant to sub-  
21 section (g) in a fiscal year to use such budget au-  
22 thority to fund grants for activities that are not in  
23 accordance with the primary mission of such partici-  
24 pating Federal agency.



1           “(i) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT.—In ad-  
2 dition to funds otherwise provided for agency administra-  
3 tive costs, up to 2 percent of amounts appropriated for  
4 the activities under this subtitle may be used by the par-  
5 ticipating Federal agencies for administrative costs, in-  
6 cluding to:

7           “(1) Provide technical assistance to applicants  
8 and grantees; and

9           “(2) Provide support and assistance in selecting  
10 and assessing projects to carry out the purpose of  
11 this subtitle, including any preparation necessary for  
12 such selection and assessment.

13 **“SEC. 495B. HOUSING ACTIVITIES.**

14           “(a) ELIGIBLE HOUSING ACTIVITIES.—Subject to  
15 the provisions of section 495A, a grant under this subtitle  
16 shall be used for activities in support of permanent hous-  
17 ing for chronically homeless persons, including the fol-  
18 lowing:

19           “(1) PROVISION OF HOUSING.—

20           “(A) ACQUISITION.—The acquisition of oc-  
21 cupancy-ready real property.

22           “(B) REHABILITATION.—The minor reha-  
23 bilitation of real property for housing.

24           “(C) OPERATING COSTS.—The costs of op-  
25 erating a housing project, including salaries and



1 benefits, maintenance, insurance, utilities, re-  
2 placement reserve accounts, and furnishings.

3 “(D) LEASING.—Leasing of an existing  
4 structure or structures, or portions thereof to  
5 provide housing.

6 “(E) HOUSING COUNSELING.—The costs  
7 of counseling and advice services with respect to  
8 property maintenance, financial management,  
9 and other such matters as may be appropriate  
10 to assist chronically homeless persons in obtain-  
11 ing housing.

12 “(2) RENTAL ASSISTANCE.—Project-based or  
13 tenant-based rental assistance for chronically home-  
14 less persons, which assistance shall be provided to  
15 the extent practicable in the manner provided under  
16 section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937  
17 (42 U.S.C. 1437f).

18 “(3) OTHER ACTIVITIES.—Such other activities  
19 as the Secretary of Housing and Urban Develop-  
20 ment determines to be appropriate.

21 “(b) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR HOUSING AC-  
22 TIVITIES.—

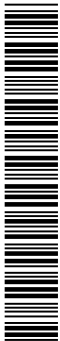
23 “(1) REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING REAL PROP-  
24 erty.—



1           “(A) USE RESTRICTION.—Each grantee  
2           under this subtitle shall ensure that permanent  
3           housing projects for chronically homeless per-  
4           sons that are acquired or rehabilitated with  
5           grant amounts under this subtitle are used for  
6           such persons for not less than 10 years.

7           “(B) HOUSING QUALITY.—Each grantee  
8           under this subtitle shall ensure that housing as-  
9           sisted with grant amounts provided under this  
10          subtitle is decent, safe, and sanitary and com-  
11          plies with all applicable State and local housing  
12          codes, building codes, and licensing require-  
13          ments in the jurisdiction in which the housing  
14          is located.

15          “(C) PREVENTION OF UNDUE BENEFIT.—  
16          Subject to the provisions of section 495A(e),  
17          the Secretary of Housing and Urban Develop-  
18          ment may prescribe such terms and conditions  
19          as such Secretary considers necessary to pre-  
20          vent grantees from unduly benefiting from the  
21          sale or other disposition of projects, other than  
22          a sale or other disposition resulting in the use  
23          of a project for the direct benefit of chronically  
24          homeless persons.



1           “(2) HOMELESS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION  
2           SYSTEM.—Each grantee shall be required to provide  
3           such information to the appropriate administrator of  
4           the local homeless management information system,  
5           as is necessary for the implementation and operation  
6           of homeless management information systems.

7   **“SEC. 495C. TREATMENT AND SUPPORT SERVICES.**

8           “Subject to the provision of section 495A, a grant  
9           under this subtitle shall be used to provide treatment and  
10          support services, which may include the following:

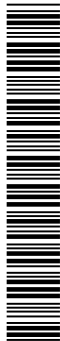
11          “(a) PRIMARY HEALTH SERVICES.—Primary health  
12          services, including the following:

13                  “(1) PHYSICIAN AND OTHER SERVICES.—  
14                  Health services related to family medicine, internal  
15                  medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics, or gynecology that  
16                  are furnished by physicians and where appropriate,  
17                  physicians’ assistants, nurse practitioners, and nurse  
18                  midwives.

19                  “(2) DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES.—Diagnostic lab-  
20                  oratory and radiological services.

21                  “(3) PREVENTIVE SERVICES.—Preventive  
22                  health services.

23                  “(4) EMERGENCY SERVICES.—Emergency med-  
24                  ical services.



1           “(5) ACCESS TO PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES.—  
2           Access to pharmaceutical services.

3           “(b) ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE SERVICES.—Serv-  
4           ices or activities designed to prevent, deter, reduce, or  
5           eliminate substance abuse or addictive behaviors, includ-  
6           ing a comprehensive range of personal and family coun-  
7           seling methods, early interventions, methadone treatment  
8           for opiate abusers, or detoxification for alcohol and other  
9           drug abusers, and treatment services such as intake and  
10          assessment, behavioral therapy and counseling, clinical  
11          and case management, pharmacotherapies, and self-help  
12          and peer support activities.

13          “(c) MENTAL HEALTH AND COUNSELING SERV-  
14          ICES.—Mental health and counseling services, including  
15          services and activities that apply therapeutic processes to  
16          personal, family, or situational problems in order to bring  
17          about a positive resolution of the problem or improved in-  
18          dividual functioning or circumstances, including crisis  
19          interventions, individual supportive therapy, and prescrip-  
20          tion of psychotropic medications or explanations about the  
21          use and management of medications.

22          “(d) OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT.—Outreach serv-  
23          ices including extending services or help to homeless per-  
24          sons to develop a relationship of trust and engage such  
25          persons into appropriate service programs.





1 Services, and Veterans Affairs, may participate under the  
2 provisions of this subtitle to the extent funds are appro-  
3 priated to each agency for purposes of participating under  
4 the provisions of this subtitle.

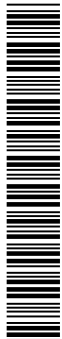
5 **“SEC. 495F. DEFINITIONS.**

6 “For purposes of this subtitle, the following defini-  
7 tions shall apply—

8 “(1) ADMINISTERING SECRETARY.—The term  
9 ‘administering Secretary’ shall mean the Secretary  
10 designated as responsible for administration of the  
11 grant program under this subtitle by the agreement  
12 authorized in section 495A(a).

13 “(2) CHRONICALLY HOMELESS PERSON.—The  
14 term ‘chronically homeless person’ means an unac-  
15 companied disabled individual who has been sleeping  
16 in one or more places not meant for human habi-  
17 tation or in one or more emergency homeless shel-  
18 ters for over one year or who has had four or more  
19 periods of homelessness over three years.

20 “(3) DISABLED INDIVIDUAL.—The term ‘dis-  
21 abled individual’ means an individual whose ability  
22 to work or perform one or more activities of daily  
23 living is limited due to—



1           “(A) a diagnosable substance use disorder,  
2           serious mental illness, developmental disability,  
3           or chronic physical illness or disability; or

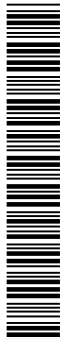
4           “(B) the co-occurrence of two or more of  
5           these conditions.

6           “(4) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-  
7           tity’ means a State, unit of general local govern-  
8           ment, public housing agency, local workforce invest-  
9           ment board and private nonprofit organization, in-  
10          cluding a faith-based or community-based organiza-  
11          tion.

12          “(5) ELIGIBLE VETERAN.—The term ‘eligible  
13          veteran’ means a person who served in the active  
14          military, naval, or air service, and who was dis-  
15          charged or released under conditions other than dis-  
16          honorable.

17          “(6) HOMELESS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION  
18          SYSTEM.—The term ‘Homeless Management Infor-  
19          mation System’ shall mean a computerized data col-  
20          lection application maintained by an eligible entity,  
21          that—

22                 “(A) enumerates the homeless population  
23                 within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity and  
24                 the number of homeless individuals that re-  
25                 ceived services from the eligible entity; and



1           “(B) captures information on the charac-  
2           teristics and service needs of homeless individ-  
3           uals.

4           “(7) INTERAGENCY IMPLEMENTATION AND  
5           MONITORING TEAM.—The term ‘interagency imple-  
6           mentation and monitoring team’ shall mean a group  
7           of representatives appointed by each participating  
8           Federal agency, which shall coordinate among each  
9           other in implementing the provisions of this subtitle  
10          in accordance with subsection 495A(d) and which  
11          shall coordinate the review and oversight of program  
12          grantees under this subtitle.

13          “(8) PARTICIPATING FEDERAL AGENCY.—The  
14          term ‘participating Federal agency’ shall mean the  
15          Secretaries of Housing and Urban Development,  
16          Health and Human Services, and Veterans Affairs,  
17          or any other Federal agency that may receive appro-  
18          priations for purposes of participating under the  
19          provisions of this subtitle.

20          “(9) PRIVATE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—  
21          The term ‘private nonprofit organization’ means a  
22          private organization—

23                 “(A) no part of the net earnings of which  
24                 inures to benefits of any member, founder, con-  
25                 tributor, or individual;



1 “(B) that has a voluntary board; and

2 “(C) that has an accounting system or a  
3 designated a fiscal agent in accordance with re-  
4 quirements established by the participating  
5 Federal agencies.

6 “(10) PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCY.—The term  
7 ‘public housing agency’ has the same meaning as in  
8 section 3(b)(6) of the United States Housing Act of  
9 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)(6)).

10 “(11) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means any  
11 State of the United States, the District of Columbia,  
12 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Is-  
13 lands, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mar-  
14 iana Islands, or any agency or instrumentality there-  
15 of that is established pursuant to legislation and  
16 designated by the chief executive officer to act on  
17 behalf of the State with regard to provisions of this  
18 subtitle.

19 “(12) UNIT OF GENERAL LOCAL GOVERN-  
20 MENT.—The term ‘unit of general local government’  
21 means—

22 “(A) a city, town, township, county, parish,  
23 village, or other general purpose political sub-  
24 division of a State; and



1                   “(B) any agency or instrumentality thereof  
2                   that is established pursuant to legislation and  
3                   designated by the chief executive officer to act  
4                   on behalf of the jurisdiction with regard to pro-  
5                   visions of this subtitle.”.

