



Increase Housing Opportunities for People with Disabilities! Co-Sponsor H.R. 1675: The Frank Melville Supportive Housing Investment Act

A cornerstone to life in the community for people with disabilities and the providers who support them is the availability of decent, safe, affordable and accessible housing. It took 113 percent of a monthly SSI benefit check to pay rent for modest one-bedroom units in 2006, putting affordable housing *out of reach* for people with disabilities who rely on SSI as their sole source of income.

The Section 811 program is the only federal housing program dedicated to assisting the lowest income people—people with significant disabilities who rely on SSI—to live in the community by providing integrated, affordable rental housing linked with voluntary services and supports.

Representatives Chris Murphy (D-CT) and Judy Biggert (R-IL) introduced the Frank Melville Supportive Housing Investment Act of 2009 (HR 1675). The bi-partisan bill has 7 co-sponsors, including Financial Services Committee Chairman Barney Frank (D-MA) and Housing and Community Opportunity Subcommittee Chair Maxine Waters (D-CA). HR 1675 provides much needed reform to the critical Section 811 program.

HR 1675 will “fast-track” and create a sustainable “pipeline” of thousands of new permanent supportive housing units every year by:

- Removing "red tape" and streamlining the HUD Section 811 application process to encourage nonprofit providers to participate in the program. Currently, HUD supplies 450+ pages of Section 811 guidance, rules, and regulations.
- Establishing a new Section 811 Demonstration Program that would help leverage other capital funding for Section 811 production and reduce barriers to “mixed-finance” Section 811 projects. H.R. 1675 would make housing units funded through Low Income Housing Tax Credits and the HOME program affordable to individuals who rely on SSI and SSDI. **These reforms would also increase the number of units created each year through the current 811 production program to 3,000 and help non-profit Section 811 sponsors to create integrated housing that includes units for people with disabilities as well as units for other households that need affordable housing.**
- Shifting renewal of Section 811-funded Mainstream Vouchers to the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program Budget and mandating that Housing Authorities monitor and ensure that these vouchers are awarded to people with disabilities. These vouchers now cost the Section 811 program over \$85 million every year – more than one-third of the entire Section 811 appropriation.

By enacting the Frank Melville Supportive Housing Investment Act of 2009, Congress can ensure that a revitalized Section 811 program has the resources to create thousands of new permanent supportive housing units every year.

**Number of SSI Recipients and Percent of Monthly SSI Payment
Needed to Rent a One Bedroom Housing Unit***

State	SSI Recipients aged 18 - 64	% of SSI
Alabama	100,653	78.30%
Alaska	6,887	76.80%
Arizona	57,357	103.70%
Arkansas	53,674	75.70%
California	589,309	116.30%
Colorado	34,773	108.50%
Connecticut	33,123	113.60%
Delaware	8,118	120.10%
District of Columbia	12,578	188.10%
Florida	201,566	118.60%
Georgia	118,339	99.50%
Hawaii	12,607	169.00%
Idaho	15,030	80.70%
Illinois	156,488	119.60%
Indiana	65,572	87.50%
Iowa	29,450	78.10%
Kansas	25,659	81.70%
Kentucky	119,349	75.80%
Louisiana	90,936	101.50%
Maine	23,261	95.60%
Maryland	55,252	147.90%
Massachusetts	105,504	137.50%
Michigan	148,290	96.50%
Minnesota	45,943	89.80%
Mississippi	71,394	78.20%
Missouri	78,257	83.00%

State	SSI Recipients aged 18 - 64	% of SSI
Montana	10,417	77.30%
Nebraska	15,005	80.70%
Nevada	18,469	122.20%
New Hampshire	10,091	120.30%
New Jersey	79,304	149.30%
New Mexico	30,838	88.00%
New York	334,805	137.50%
North Carolina	113,974	95.10%
North Dakota	5,143	71.70%
Ohio	171,438	85.40%
Oklahoma	50,478	70.20%
Oregon	39,711	96.80%
Pennsylvania	199,044	100.00%
Rhode Island	18,878	130.10%
South Carolina	62,163	89.60%
South Dakota	7,621	71.90%
Tennessee	102,994	85.40%
Texas	254,666	97.00%
Utah	14,647	93.70%
Vermont	9,000	99.30%
Virginia	79,961	128.40%
Washington	74,614	97.40%
West Virginia	55,994	72.20%
Wisconsin	59,667	79.80%
Wyoming	4,091	75.80%
National Average	4,082,870	113.10%

*From *Priced Out in 2006*