

## **Task Force on the Impact of the Affordable Housing Crisis Act – S. \_\_\_\_\_**

### **What the Task Force does:**

This bill establishes a bipartisan Task Force to evaluate and quantify the impact of affordable housing on other government programs and provide recommendations to Congress on how to use affordable housing to improve the effectiveness of other Federal programs and improve life outcomes.

Specifically, the Task Force will:

1. Evaluate and quantify the impact that a lack of affordable housing has on other areas of life and life outcomes for individuals living in the United States, including education, employment, income level, health, nutrition, access to transportation, and poverty level in the neighborhood in which individuals live, regional economic growth, and neighborhood and rural community stability and revitalization.
2. Evaluate and quantify the costs incurred by other Federal, State, and local programs due to a lack of affordable housing.
3. Make recommendations to Congress on how to use affordable housing to improve the effectiveness of other Federal programs and improve life outcomes for individuals living in the United States.

### **Members of the Task Force:**

There will be 18 members of the Task Force with two co-chairs: one co-chair appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate and the Speaker of the House and one co-chair appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate and the Minority Leader of the House.

Four members appointed by each of the following: Majority Leader of the Senate, Minority Leader of the Senate, Speaker of the House, and Minority Leader of the House.

Members will be academic researchers, experts in a field or policy area related to the purpose of the Task Force, or individuals who have experience with government programs related to the purpose.

**Need for the Task Force:** For millions of individuals and families, a lack of affordable housing has negative, profound, and lasting consequences. Research shows that an inability to access safe, decent, and affordable homes jeopardizes educational performance and economic mobility and leaves families with fewer dollars to spend on health care, groceries, and other important expenses – further ingraining families in the cycle of poverty. The federal response to our nation’s affordable housing crisis would benefit from a better understanding of the second and third order effects of affordable housing on other government programs and areas of life.

### **Support:**

- Barbara Sard, Vice President for Housing Policy at the **Center on Budget and Policy Priorities** said, “A growing body of evidence demonstrates the importance of a stable, affordable home in a safe neighborhood to positive health, education, income and other outcomes, but it can be difficult to assess how housing investments may affect the results and costs of other programs. The proposed Task Force on the Impact of the Affordable Housing Crisis is well-designed to answer these important questions.”
- “The National Low Income Housing Coalition strongly supports legislation introduced by Senators Angus King and Todd Young to create a task force to quantify the multi-sector benefits of affordable homes,” said Diane Yentel, president, and CEO of the **National Low Income Housing Coalition**. “Housing affordability is a key driver of improved health, increased educational attainment, and greater lifetime earnings, among many other things. I commend Senators King and Young for their leadership in recognizing that federal investments in affordable homes have positive and far-reaching impacts for the millions of extremely low-income people who struggle to pay rent and make ends meet, as well as for our nation’s economy and its future.”