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Preserving and expanding Federal and State elderly housing programs

- 1 WHEREAS elderly housing provides important benefits, including a cost-effective means of facilitating formal and informal support services to assist older persons;
- 2 WHEREAS there is a critical shortage of suitable and affordable housing for older persons, particularly those with low and moderate incomes;
- 3 WHEREAS a substantial number of older persons live at the poverty level;
- 4 WHEREAS much elderly housing needs repair and retrofitting, lacks adequate supportive features, faces financial constraints, and is at risk of losing Section 8 contract renewals;
- 5 WHEREAS elderly housing linked with supportive services can play a critical role in health and long-term care reform;
- 6 WHEREAS the Federal Government has an important role in financing the construction of low-income senior housing through the Section 202 and Section 8 programs; and
- 7 WHEREAS people aged 75 and older, women living alone, minorities, and residents of rural areas have the greatest need for government assistance;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the 1995 White House Conference on Aging to support policies that:

- 8 Reaffirm the Federal Government's obligations, as stated in the Older Americans Act (OAA) and the Housing Act of 1949, in meeting the housing and service needs of elderly persons, particularly those with low and moderate incomes, by maintaining a cabinet-level department charged with these responsibilities;
- 9 Stimulate innovative and flexible financing for mixed-financing, mixed-income, and mixed-use facilities, to produce affordable senior housing with services while preserving existing, quality facilities;
- 10 Promote housing linked to supportive services, where special needs can be met in various settings through the utilization of service coordinators, home care, technological support, and accessible design;

Appendix D: Text of the Resolutions

- 11 Promote elderly independence by collocating housing and community-based services, such as health care, adult day care, and senior centers, through coordination between the government and private sector and among levels of government;
- 12 Ensure Federal funding, including refinancing options, access to projects reserve accounts, retaining surplus rent payment, and continuing project-based assistance, to modernize and retrofit elderly housing facilities, and to provide safe, decent, affordable, and suitable housing for older persons;
- 13 Continue successful, cost-effective methods of financing and developing elderly housing, such as Section 202, Section 8, and other Federally-assisted and public housing programs;
- 14 Target housing resources to low-income senior citizens, including but not limited to women, persons with disabilities, rural communities, and minority older persons;
- 15 Encourage policies, including vouchers, that support housing choices for residents of Federal- and State-assisted housing developments for older persons.

