

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9229

To provide free post office boxes to individuals who are unhoused or experiencing housing instability, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 30, 2024

Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. CARSON, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. LEE of California, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. EVANS, and Ms. SCANLON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability

A BILL

To provide free post office boxes to individuals who are unhoused or experiencing housing instability, 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 “Mail Accessibility and
5 Inclusion for Low-Income Families Act” or the “MAIL
6 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. POST OFFICE BOXES FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE**
2 **UNHOUSED OR EXPERIENCING HOUSING IN-**
3 **STABILITY.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the
5 date of the enactment of this Act, the United States Postal
6 Service shall issue regulations providing that an unhoused
7 or housing unstable individual is eligible for a post office
8 box without any fees if such unhoused or housing unstable
9 individual submits to the Postmaster General, at such
10 time, in such manner, and containing such information as
11 the Postmaster General determines appropriate, proof
12 that the annual income of such unhoused or housing un-
13 stable individual does not exceed the poverty line, as estab-
14 lished by the Director of the Office of Management and
15 Budget and revised by the Secretary of Health and
16 Human Services in accordance with section 9902(2) of
17 title 42, United States Code, or that such unhoused or
18 housing unstable individual is one of the following:

19 (1) An individual receiving assistance under a
20 State program funded under part A of title IV of the
21 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.).

22 (2) Receiving housing assistance or benefits
23 under any Federal program for assistance for rental
24 housing, including—

25 (A) the programs for rental assistance
26 under section 8 of the United States Housing

1 Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f), including the
2 housing choice voucher program and the pro-
3 gram for project-based voucher assistance;

4 (B) the public housing program under such
5 Act;

6 (C) the program for supportive housing for
7 elderly persons under section 202 of the Hous-
8 ing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q);

9 (D) the program for supportive housing for
10 persons with disabilities under section 811 of
11 the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable
12 Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013); and

13 (E) the programs for rural housing under
14 title V of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C.
15 1471 et seq.).

16 (3) Enrolled in the Medicaid program under
17 title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396
18 et seq.).

19 (4) A member of a household receiving assist-
20 ance under the supplemental nutrition assistance
21 program established under the Food and Nutrition
22 Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.).

23 (5) Enrolled in the special supplemental nutri-
24 tion program for women, infants, and children estab-

1 lished under section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act
2 of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786).

3 (b) UNHOUSED OR HOUSING UNSTABLE INDIVIDUAL
4 DEFINED.—In this section, the term “unhoused or hous-
5 ing unstable individual” means an individual who is—

6 (1) homeless (as defined in section 103 of the
7 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42
8 U.S.C. 11302)); or

9 (2) at risk of homelessness (as defined in sec-
10 tion 401 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 11360)).

11 (c) REIMBURSEMENT OF FORGONE REVENUE.—Sec-
12 tion 2401(c) of title 39, United States Code, is amended
13 by inserting “and section 2 of the MAIL Act” after
14 “3406”.

15 **SEC. 3. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AND REPORTS.**

16 (a) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than 180
17 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Post-
18 master General shall submit to the Committee on Over-
19 sight and Accountability of the House of Representatives,
20 the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental
21 Affairs of the Senate, and the Committees on Appropria-
22 tions of the House of Representatives and the Senate a
23 plan for carrying out this Act.

24 (b) PROGRESS REPORTS.—Not later five years after
25 the date on which Postmaster General submits the plan

1 required under subsection (a), and every five years there-
2 after, the Postmaster General shall submit to the commit-
3 tees described in such subsection a report on the provision
4 of post office boxes to unshoused or housing unstable indi-
5 viduals (as defined in section 2) pursuant to this Act.

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