

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4956

To provide that the Executive order entitled “Establishing a White House Council on Eliminating Regulatory Barriers to Affordable Housing” shall have the force and effect of law, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 31, 2019

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina (for herself and Mrs. WAGNER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

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## A BILL

To provide that the Executive order entitled “Establishing a White House Council on Eliminating Regulatory Barriers to Affordable Housing” shall have the force and effect of law, 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 “Finding Market-Based  
5       and Local Solutions to Ensure Access to Housing Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       The Congress finds the following:

1                   (1) Communities across the country are facing  
2                   an affordable housing crisis.

3                   (2) Families who pay more than 30 percent of  
4                   their income for housing are considered cost bur-  
5                   dened and may have difficulty affording necessities  
6                   such as food, clothing, transportation, and medical  
7                   care.

8                   (3) The Department of Housing and Urban De-  
9                   velopment estimates 12,000,000 renter and home-  
10                  owner households now pay more than 50 percent of  
11                  their annual incomes for housing.

12                  (4) The prohibitive cost of housing slows eco-  
13                  nomic growth and means fewer jobs and lower  
14                  wages.

15                  (5) Housing demand depends on local demo-  
16                  graphics, job markets, and place-based amenities.

17                  (6) Housing supply depends on local availability  
18                  of land and the cost and complexity of housing de-  
19                  velopment.

20                  (7) Land-use restrictions are a significant fac-  
21                  tor in housing supply and prices.

22                  (8) There is evidence that exclusionary and re-  
23                  strictive zoning raises housing prices and restricts  
24                  the supply of housing across the country.

25                  (9) Housing markets are local.

1                   (10) Exclusionary and restrictive zoning policies  
2                   that affect development are adopted by local govern-  
3                   ments.

4                   (11) The Federal Government has limited con-  
5                   trol over State and local land-use policy and zoning.

6                   (12) To understand and correct housing short-  
7                   ages, Federal, State, and local governments need to  
8                   look at all options.

9                   (13) Housing is critical for health, economic  
10                  stability, and academic success.

11 **SEC. 3. LEGAL EFFECT.**

12                  Notwithstanding any other provision of law or Execu-  
13 tive order, Executive Order 13878 (84 Fed. Reg. 30853),  
14 signed on June 25, 2019, and entitled “Establishing a  
15 White House Council on Eliminating Regulatory Barriers  
16 to Affordable Housing” shall have the force and effect of  
17 law.

18 **SEC. 4. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

19                  (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the  
20 date of the enactment of this Act, the White House Coun-  
21 cil on Eliminating Regulatory Barriers to Affordable  
22 Housing shall submit to the Congress a report on the im-  
23 plementation, by the Council, of section 4 of Executive  
24 Order 13878 (84 Fed. Reg. 30853).

1       (b) SUBSEQUENT REPORTS.—The White House  
2 Council on Eliminating Regulatory Barriers to Affordable  
3 Housing shall submit any subsequent report that the Con-  
4 gress may request or that the Council may deem appro-  
5 priate.

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