

***Testimony delivered at March 15, 2017 Committee on Human Services  
Oversight Hearing on the Department of Human Services  
by Janet Sharp***

My name is Janet Sharp. I am a member of the People for Fairness Coalition, which meets every Tuesday at Miriam's Kitchen at 8:15 am. The goal of this organization is to end homelessness through advocacy, outreach and peer mentoring.

There is a critical shortage of affordable housing for anyone on fixed or low-to-low to no income.

According to HUD your rent should be one third of your monthly income.

Shelters are not a viable solution to this dilemma.

People with vouchers are having a very difficult time finding an apartment. If you have a less than perfect credit history, no credit history, recent incarceration or anything else on the applications that the landlord thinks is negative, you may be rejected.

This must stop now.

We need to work together to ensure that everyone who has a voucher finds a place to live.

Housing for seniors and low-income people is scarce. The solution is to build low-income apartment building and permanent supportive housing with support services based on each person's individual needs.

This can be done.

All agencies and organizations need to work together to make this a reality.

The process of getting a voucher is complicated. Cooperation between case management and clients is essential.

I ask DHS to do its part to make housing available to anyone who needs it.