To improve coordination among providers of supportive services for homeless individuals and to establish a supported housing program to provide rental assistance to homeless individuals with chronic mental illnesses or chronic substance use disorders, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. Waters introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on ________

A BILL

To improve coordination among providers of supportive services for homeless individuals and to establish a supported housing program to provide rental assistance to homeless individuals with chronic mental illnesses or chronic substance use disorders, 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 “Housing is Health Care Act of 2022”.

5
SEC. 2. IMPROVED COORDINATION AMONG PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCIES, PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCIES, AND HEALTH CENTERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall jointly issue guidance to improve coordination between local public housing agencies, local public health agencies, Federally qualified health centers, case managers, and other providers of health services and supportive services for persons and families who are experiencing homelessness and persons and families on whose behalf rental assistance is provided under section 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)).

(b) CONTENTS.—The guidance issued pursuant to subsection (a) shall include guidance regarding—

(1) establishing points of contact at public housing agencies, public health agencies, and Federally qualified health centers—

(A) to ensure that public housing agencies receive appropriate referrals regarding persons and families who are eligible to receive rental assistance under section 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of 1937; and
(B) to ensure that public health agencies and Federally qualified health centers receive appropriate referrals regarding persons who are eligible to receive health services;

(2) participating in the Continuum of Care program established under subtitle C of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11381 et seq.) and coordinating with Federally qualified health centers and other providers of health services and supportive services in the community; and

(3) implementing strategies to enable persons and families who are experiencing homelessness and persons and families on whose behalf rental assistance is provided under section 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 to obtain access to quality health services, reduce lapses in health care, and improve health outcomes.

(c) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the term “Federally qualified health center” has the meaning given the term in section 1861(aa) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(aa)).
SEC. 3. SUPPORTED HOUSING PROGRAM FOR HOMELESS PERSONS WITH A CHRONIC MENTAL ILLNESS OR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER.

(a) In General.—Section 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(8)(o)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(22) RENTAL VOUCHERS FOR HEATH AND HUMAN SERVICES SUPPORTED HOUSING PROGRAM.—

“(A) SET ASIDE.—Subject to subparagraph (F), the Secretary shall set aside, from amounts made available for rental assistance under this subsection, the amounts specified in subparagraph (E) for use only for providing such assistance through a supported housing program administered in conjunction with the Department of Health and Human Services.

“(B) SUPPORTED HOUSING PROGRAM.— The supported housing program described in subparagraph (A) shall—

“(i) provide rental assistance for homeless persons who meet the eligibility requirements described in subparagraph (C); and

“(ii) ensure that each homeless person receiving rental assistance through the sup-
ported housing program has guaranteed access to appropriate supportive services, including case management and health services, including substance use disorder services and mental health services

“(C) ELIGIBILITY OF HOMELESS PERSONS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—A homeless person shall be initially eligible to receive rental assistance and supportive services under the program under this paragraph, if such person—

“(I) has a chronic mental illness or chronic substance use disorder, as determined by a qualified, licensed health professional; and

“(II) is referred to the Department of Housing and Urban Development or a local public housing agency for participation in the supported housing program by an eligible Federally qualified health center.

“(ii) CONTINUED ASSISTANCE.—Assistance under the program under this paragraph may not be terminated because
the assisted person no longer has a condi-
tion referred to in clause (i)(I).

“(D) FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH
CENTER PARTICIPATION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Any eligible Fed-
erally qualified health center may elect to
participate in the supported housing pro-
gram but shall not be permitted to partici-
pate unless such center enters into any
agreement that the Secretary, in consulta-
tion with the Secretary of Health and
Human Services, determines is necessary
to ensure that such center provides appro-
priate health services, including substance
use disorder services and mental health
services, to eligible homeless persons.

“(ii) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year
after the date of the enactment of this
paragraph, the Secretary, in consultation
with the Secretary of Health and Human
Services, shall submit to the Congress a re-
port that analyzes the extent to which eli-
gible Federally qualified health centers
have sufficient resources to provide to
homeless persons the services required under this subparagraph.

“(E) SET-ASIDE AMOUNT.—The amount of the set-aside described in subparagraph (A) is—

“(i) for fiscal year 2023, the amount necessary to provide [#] vouchers for rental assistance under this subsection; and

“(ii) for each of fiscal years 2024 through 20[____], the amount necessary to provide [#] vouchers for rental assistance under this subsection.

“(F) FUNDING THROUGH INCREMENTAL ASSISTANCE.—In any fiscal year, to the extent that this paragraph requires the Secretary to set aside rental assistance amounts for use under this paragraph in an amount that exceeds the amount set aside in the preceding fiscal year, such requirement shall be effective only to such extent or in such amounts as are or have been provided in appropriation Acts for such fiscal year for incremental rental assistance under this subsection.
'(G) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this paragraph—

“(i) ELIGIBLE FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTER.—The term ‘eligible Federally qualified health center’ means a Federally qualified health center that—

“(I) provides substance use disorder services; and

“(II) mental health services.

“(ii) FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTER.—The term ‘Federally qualified health center’ has the meaning given the term in section 1861(aa) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(aa)).

“(iii) HOMELESS PERSON.—The term ‘homeless person’ has the meaning given such term in section 103 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11302).”.

(b) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall jointly issue guidance to coordinate the administration of the supported housing program established by paragraph (22) of section 8(o) of the
1 United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(8)(o)(22)), as added by the amendment made by subsection (a) of this section, which shall address coordination between local public housing agencies, eligible Federally qualified health centers, case managers, and other providers of supportive services.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated, to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, for fiscal year 2023, such amounts as are necessary to provide incremental vouchers for rental assistance under section 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of 1937.