

# House Concurrent Resolution No. 13

## 101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE COLLINS.

1757H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

1           **WHEREAS**, recent research demonstrates that residents of neighborhoods with  
2 substandard housing, abandoned buildings, and vacant lots are more likely than residents of other  
3 neighborhoods to suffer from various health problems, such as asthma, neurological damage, and  
4 mental illness; and

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6           **WHEREAS**, studies have shown that household disrepair can lead to psychological  
7 dysfunction, lead in the home can lead to neurological damage, and vacant lots and abandoned  
8 buildings can lead to isolation, loss of social capital, and violence; and

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10           **WHEREAS**, in Philadelphia, renovation of buildings was associated with a reduction  
11 in crime, including gun violence; and

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13           **WHEREAS**, investing in improving the conditions in neighborhoods with substandard  
14 housing, abandoned buildings, and vacant lots should be an essential part of the effort to reduce  
15 gun violence and improve public health outcomes in our communities; and

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17           **WHEREAS**, land reutilization programs improve conditions in neighborhoods by  
18 acquiring blighted properties and selling them to those who will use the properties to benefit the  
19 community; and

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21           **WHEREAS**, by returning vacant lots and abandoned buildings to productive use, St.  
22 Louis City's Land Reutilization Authority may be able to improve public health outcomes for St.  
23 Louis City residents; and

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25           **WHEREAS**, programs like St. Louis City's Land Reutilization Authority need sufficient  
26 funding to manage, repair, and stabilize buildings; and

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28           **WHEREAS**, because purchasers of blighted properties often lack the financial resources  
29 required to make needed repairs to the properties, St. Louis City's Land Reutilization Authority  
30 cannot solve the problem of urban blight in the city on its own; and

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32           **WHEREAS**, St. Louis City has not solved its urban blight problem, as evidenced by the  
33 fact that in 2020 there were over 200 homicides in the city, which translates to a homicide rate  
34 of 87 killings per 100,000 residents; and

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36           **WHEREAS**, the KC Home Rehabber Loan Fund supports home rehabilitation projects  
37 in distressed neighborhoods in Kansas City by providing small contractors with financing in  
38 order to rehabilitate homes; and

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40           **WHEREAS**, the creation of more programs to assist purchasers of blighted properties  
41 is needed to address the devastating health impacts of urban blight and gun violence in St. Louis  
42 City and in other cities in the state; and

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44           **WHEREAS**, funding land reutilization programs and programs that assist purchasers of  
45 blighted properties will increase the availability of safe, affordable housing and significantly  
46 improve health outcomes for residents of this state:

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48           **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of  
49 Representatives of the One Hundred First General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate  
50 concurring therein, hereby state our support for the funding of land reutilization programs and  
51 programs that assist purchasers of blighted properties and urge prioritization of the funding of  
52 these programs in order to improve public health outcomes in our state.

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