Literature Review: Influences on United States Housing Policy

1. Introduction

The United States housing policy is a multifaceted and dynamic field influenced by various factors. This literature review explores key contributions to the understanding of influences on U.S. housing policy, examining works from different periods and perspectives.

2. Federal Government Support for Assisted Housing (Burchell, 1995):

Burchell, R.W., & Listokin, D. (1995). Influences on United States housing policy. Housing Policy Debate, 6, 559-617.

Burchell (1995) predicts a future decline in federal government support for assisted housing. This assertion, backed by 21 citations, raises questions about the evolving role of the federal government in addressing housing needs and its potential implications for the overall housing landscape.

3. Solutions to the Housing Crisis (Anacker, 2023):  
Anacker, K.B. (2023). Solving Housing Affordability Challenges in the United States. Dialogues in Urban Research, 1, 186 - 188.

Anacker (2023) focuses on solutions to the housing crisis, proposing three interconnected, equal priorities. With no citations as of the publication year, this recent work prompts exploration into novel approaches for addressing housing challenges and the reception of such ideas in academic and policy circles.

4. Impact of Zoning on Housing Affordability (Glaeser, 2002):

Glaeser, Edward L. and Joseph Gyourko. "The Impact Of Building Restrictions On Housing Affordability," FRB New York - Economic Policy Review, 2003, v9(2,Jun), 21-39.

Glaeser (2002) examines the impact of zoning on housing affordability, highlighting that housing prices are significantly higher than construction costs in specific areas. With a substantial 78 citations, this work emphasizes the geographical nuances of housing affordability and the role of zoning policies.

5. Affordability Challenges for Minimum Wage Earners (Schwarz, 2014):

Basolo, V. (2019). Affordable Housing. The Routledge Handbook of Housing Policy and Planning.

Schwarz (2014) underscores the challenges faced by households with one full-time minimum wage earner, unable to afford local fair-market rents. The work, cited 114 times, draws attention to the intersection of income levels, employment, and housing affordability in the United States.

6. Fraction of Income Devoted to Housing (Quigley, 2004):  
Quigley, John, M., and Steven Raphael. 2004. "Is Housing Unaffordable? Why Isn't It More Affordable? ." Journal of Economic Perspectives, 18 (1): 191-214.

Quigley (2004) examines the fraction of income that median renter households, particularly poor households, allocate to housing. With an impressive 471 citations, this work sheds light on the evolving financial burden of housing for vulnerable populations over time.

7. Increased Spending for Decent and Affordable Housing (Dreier, 1995):

Dreier, P., & Atlas, J.P. (1995). US housing problems, politics and policies in the 1990s. Housing Studies, 10, 245-269.

Dreier (1995) argues for increased spending on housing to ensure every American access to decent, safe, and affordable housing. With 17 citations, this work contributes to discussions on the role of public expenditure in shaping housing policy.

8. Affordable Housing as a Basic Need (Mulroy, 1996):  
Mulroy, E.A., & Ewalt, P.L. (1996). Affordable Housing: A Basic Need and a Social Issue. Social Work, 41, 245-249.

Mulroy (1996) addresses affordable housing as a basic need and a social issue. Published in the field of social work and cited 29 times, this work delves into the social dimensions of housing policy, emphasizing the lack of subsidies for many low-income renter households.

9. Limited Housing Assistance for Qualifying Households (Koebel, 1997):  
Koebel, C.T. (1997). Housing conditions of low‐income families in the private, unassisted housing market in the United states. Housing Studies, 12, 201-213.

Koebel (1997) explores housing conditions for low-income families in the private, unassisted housing market. With 12 citations, this work underscores the limited availability of housing assistance for qualifying households.

10. Conclusion

This literature review provides a snapshot of influential works on U.S. housing policy, encompassing federal support, crisis solutions, zoning impact, affordability challenges, income allocation, government spending, social perspectives, and housing assistance. The diverse range of studies underscores the complexity of the field and the need for a comprehensive and nuanced approach to address housing issues in the United States.

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