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University of Massachusetts Boston

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Editor's Introduction

This issue of the Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University's Urban Studies Unit presents a collection of readings that explore various aspects of poverty in the United States, with a focus on housing affordability and its implications for housing policy and public services. The issue includes a range of perspectives on housing challenges, from the economic impacts of poverty to the role of government and the nonprofit sector in addressing these issues.

The data in recent years have shown a growing disparity in housing affordability, with many low-income families struggling to find safe and affordable housing. The essays in this issue provide insights into the causes of this disparity and propose solutions for addressing these challenges. They highlight the importance of housing as a basic human need and the urgent need for policy changes to support affordable housing options.

The essays in this issue are written by leading scholars and policymakers in the field of housing and urban studies. They include analyses of the current state of housing affordability, discussions of the role of the nonprofit sector in providing housing assistance, and proposals for policy solutions that can help to address the housing crisis.

In conclusion, the essays in this issue provide a comprehensive overview of the challenges facing housing affordability in the United States and propose a range of solutions for addressing these challenges. They underscore the importance of housing as a basic human need and the urgent need for policy changes that can help to ensure that all Americans have access to safe and affordable housing.

Padraig O'Malley

Footnotes: