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## Bluegrass Institute scholar to lawmakers: Let's avoid a California-style housing crisis

New Bluegrass Institute Scholar M. Nolan Gray: The most important things Kentucky can do to improve housing affordability is eliminate regulatory bottlenecks and restore property rights.

Kentucky's economic competitiveness is at a crossroads.

To foster a thriving economy in Kentucky with abundant jobs and opportunities for a free and prosperous future, no obstacle looms greater than the lack of affordable housing.

The fear of young people graduating from our schools and leaving the state – never to return – is a real concern known as “brain drain.” Key to preventing brain drain is getting the government out of the way of Kentuckians working together to create abundant and affordable housing that will cause the next generation to stay and contribute to our state's bright future.



If we care about economic competitiveness, people being able to raise families and creating an environment where Kentuckians can pursue their own happiness, then we must care about empowering individuals to secure the housing they need and want.

New Bluegrass Institute Scholar M. Nolan Gray told the Kentucky Housing Task Force this week, “Kentucky is on track to have a California-style housing crisis if we don’t take action today.”

The Bluegrass Institute has enlisted Gray, a city planner and native of Lexington who has seen the housing crisis in California and elsewhere unfold, to ensure that Kentucky's future doesn't offer the lack of affordable housing that now defines the Golden State.

“The good news is we have plenty of time to avoid a California-style housing crisis,” Gray said. “We know the root of the problem is a mismatch between supply and demand.”

Kentucky doesn't need to engage in heavy-handed government meddling to fix the problem. The key, Gray told lawmakers, is to let the housing market function as it should and give property owners more control. In short, the answer is more freedom.

*To obtain a transcript of Gray's comments, contact Jim Waters, president of the Bluegrass Institute for Public Policy Solutions, at (270) 320-4376 or [jwaters@bluegrassinstitute.org](mailto:jwaters@bluegrassinstitute.org).*

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