

Ending Homelessness Act

For the last generation, incomes have not kept up with the cost of living. Housing costs in particular have strained the budgets of middle and working class families, depriving them of the security and dignity that comes with stable living conditions.

Housing is a human right—yet affordable housing remains out of reach for too many. Homelessness has reached crisis levels in numerous parts of America. Based on the results of the 2018 point-in-time (PIT) count, there are over 550,000 people experiencing homelessness in America, including over 150,000 children and youth. The lack of new resources and funding has stalled our progress of eradicating homelessness in America.

U.S. Senator Kamala D. Harris (D-CA) is introducing the *Ending Homelessness Act* to tackle the country's homelessness crisis head on by investing billions in the construction of new affordable housing units, and support the improved coordination between supportive housing and health care initiatives. Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-CA), Chairwoman of the House Financial Services Committee, introduced the *Ending Homelessness Act* in the U.S. House of Representatives. The bill is a comprehensive plan to ending homelessness, recognizing the special circumstances that often lead to homelessness and the issues commonly facing people experiencing homelessness. This legislation will lead to the construction of 410,000 new affordable housing units.

The *Ending Homelessness Act* includes:

\$5 billion over five years for McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants

- Funds an additional 85,000 new permanent supportive housing units, which should effectively eliminate chronic homelessness across America.
- Uses a revised funding formula to ensure that funding is distributed accurately to communities based on need.
- Funds may also be used for any eligible activities under McKinney-Vento, including transitional housing, rapid rehousing, and emergency shelters.

\$2.5 billion over five years for new Special Purpose Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers

- Funds approximately 300,000 additional housing vouchers and gives preference to people experiencing homelessness or those who are at risk of experiencing homelessness.

\$5 billion over five years in mandatory annual appropriations for the National Housing Trust Fund

- Creates 25,000 new rental units that are affordable to extremely low-income households, with a priority for housing for people who are experiencing homelessness, in the first five years.

\$500 million over five years for outreach funding

- Funds state and local jurisdictions on competitive basis to provide case management and social services for people who are experiencing homelessness, or formerly experienced homelessness.

\$20 million for states and localities to integrate healthcare and housing initiatives

- Funds technical assistance for state and local governments to help coordinate their supportive housing and health care initiatives that are funded by federal programs.

In addition to Harris, this legislation is co-sponsored by Senators Patty Murray (D-WA), Mazie Hirono (D-HI), and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY).

This bill is supported by: Center for Supportive Housing, Community Solutions, Council of Large Public Housing Authorities, Drug Policy Alliance, Leading Age, Local Initiatives Support Corporation, National Alliance on Mental Illness, National Alliance to End Homelessness, National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, National Housing Conference, National Housing Law Project, National Housing Trust, National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, National Low Income Housing Coalition, National Rural Housing Coalition, PATH (People Assisting the Homeless), Public Housing Authority Directors Association, Stewards for Affordable Housing for the Future, and TELACU Residential Management.