

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 634

Expressing that the United States is obligated to permanently end the unhoused crisis by 2027 and uphold, protect, and enforce the civil and human rights of unhoused individuals, including the human rights to housing, universal health care, livable wages, education, employment opportunities, access to public facilities, free movement in public spaces, privacy, confidentiality, internet access, vote, freedom from harassment by law enforcement, private businesses, property owners, and housed residents, and equal rights to health care, legal representation, and social services without discrimination based on housing status.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 28, 2023

Ms. BUSH (for herself, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. NORTON, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. BOWMAN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CARSON, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CASAR, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. PRESSLEY, and Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Education and the Workforce, the Judiciary, Agriculture, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

RESOLUTION

Expressing that the United States is obligated to permanently end the unhoused crisis by 2027 and uphold, protect, and enforce the civil and human rights of unhoused individuals, including the human rights to housing, universal health care, livable wages, education,

employment opportunities, access to public facilities, free movement in public spaces, privacy, confidentiality, internet access, vote, freedom from harassment by law enforcement, private businesses, property owners, and housed residents, and equal rights to health care, legal representation, and social services without discrimination based on housing status.

Whereas there are currently between 582,000 and 1,500,000 unhoused individuals residing in the United States;

Whereas the population of unhoused individuals in the United States is disproportionately comprised of Black, brown, and Indigenous people, women, children, veterans, undocumented immigrants, people with mental, developmental, and physical disabilities and substance use disorders, and members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender nonconforming, and queer community;

Whereas older adults are the largest growing segment of the homeless population and nearly 40 percent of older Americans rely only on Social Security income in retirement, leaving housing stability out of reach for most older Americans;

Whereas Black Americans make up more than 40 percent of the unhoused population, but represent 13 percent of the general population, and Indigenous people are similarly disproportionately overrepresented within the unhoused population;

Whereas children under the age of 18 comprise almost 40 percent of the total unhoused population in the United States;

Whereas 4,200,000 children and youth experience homelessness each year in the United States;

Whereas 420,000 children are not connected with a school system because of homelessness each year in the United States;

Whereas lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender nonconforming, and queer individuals, including children, are forced to accept inappropriate or unsafe accommodations to access publicly funded emergency shelters;

Whereas survivors of domestic violence, partner violence, sexual assault, and stalking are faced with the impossible choice of living with an abusive person or becoming unhoused due to a lack of an adequate housing safety net;

Whereas the root causes contributing to the unhoused crisis are poverty, a lack of affordable housing options, systemic racism, chronically low wages, underemployment and unemployment, gentrification, housing discrimination, mass incarceration, immigration status, criminalization of poverty, domestic violence, discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender nonconforming, and queer individuals, trauma, disabilities, personal and medical debt, a lack of affordable childcare, natural disasters, institutionalization, and unexpected loss of household income;

Whereas in the wake of a deadly global pandemic and a compounding economic crisis that resulted in massive job loss, rates of housing insecurity have skyrocketed as millions of people across the Nation faced financial instability;

Whereas the pandemic significantly increased the number of unhoused children and youth due to high unemployment, unstable living conditions, and job insecurity, leaving millions of children and youth vulnerable to criminalization, exposure to extreme weather, disease, malnutrition, mental and physical disorders, substance use disorders, sex trafficking, kidnapping, physical and sexual assault, and premature death;

Whereas the Emergency Rental Assistance Program provided \$46,000,000,000 to keep countless tenants housed during the COVID–19 pandemic, along with stimulus checks, expanded unemployment benefits, child tax credits, and increased Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program allocations;

Whereas low-income renters face increasingly high rents and rising housing instability, and without the supports provided by pandemic-era benefit programs, safe, stable, and affordable housing remains out of reach;

Whereas, since July 2009, Federal minimum wage has remained stagnant at an abysmal \$7.25, forcing low-wage workers to work two to three jobs to afford housing and basic needs;

Whereas, from 2009 to 2021, the median rent across the United States increased 42 percent, from \$817 a month to \$1,163;

Whereas, according to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, in 2023 the housing wage, defined as an annual estimate of the hourly wage full-time workers must earn to afford a rental home at fair market rent without spending more than 30 percent of their incomes, was \$28.58 per hour for a modest two-bedroom rental home

and \$23.67 per hour for a modest one-bedroom rental home;

Whereas, in no State, metropolitan area, or county can a full-time minimum-wage worker afford a modest two-bedroom rental home, and a full-time minimum-wage worker cannot afford a modest one-bedroom rental home in more than 92 percent of United States counties;

Whereas the gap between wages and housing costs is largest for people of color, and particularly women of color, as a result of decades of racist housing policies that have led to people of color facing disproportionate challenges accessing decent and affordable homes;

Whereas lack of access to public restrooms, handwashing facilities, laundry facilities, showers, and garbage removal services severely deteriorates overall quality of life and greatly increases the chance of unhoused individuals contracting communicable diseases, impacting both housed and unhoused communities and threatening public health;

Whereas health disparities significantly contribute to a broken social system that creates and maintains poverty, and the unhoused crisis is a public health crisis, resulting in unhoused persons suffering from significantly higher rates of chronic health conditions and premature death than housed persons, and vastly increasing the spread of communicable diseases throughout unhoused and housed communities;

Whereas unhoused persons exhibit higher rates of depression, anxiety, psychological distress, physical health problems, substance use disorders, and mental trauma than housed persons, combined with increased difficulties in accessing health services due to a lack of stable living environment,

functioning communication devices, physical distance, and knowledge of programs and procedures, among other structural barriers, thereby exacerbating the public health crisis;

Whereas inadequate access to healthy, affordable, and fresh food options, and severe restrictions on the usage of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) benefits foster conditions of chronic malnutrition and food insecurity for unhoused persons, particularly youth, significantly weakening their ability to stave off infections and diseases and contributing to compounding public health crises;

Whereas unhoused people lack the necessary stable, safe, and supportive environment to comply with treatment plans and heal from illnesses and are often prematurely discharged from medical facilities, thereby exacerbating existing medical conditions and hindering the recovery and treatment processes;

Whereas, according to the National Coalition for the Homeless, human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome and the unhoused crisis are intricately related—as many as 50 percent of people living with human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome in the United States are at risk of becoming unhoused due to high medical costs and health-related job loss, and since human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome targets the immune system, unhoused people living with human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome do not have the ability to fight off disease due to

factors related to malnutrition, access to hygiene facilities, and exposure to extreme weather conditions;

Whereas the compounding physical and psychological trauma stemming from lack of access to housing, health care, safety, food, water, restrooms, showers, laundry facilities, electricity, internet, technology, property storage, and leisure, combined with exposure to extreme weather conditions, and higher rates of personal violence, including physical and sexual assaults endured by unhoused individuals, inevitably worsens the mental health of individuals and makes it more difficult to access permanent housing and employment, as well as social, medical, and mental health services;

Whereas the criminalization of unhoused individuals and communities through the creation of State and local ordinances that ban panhandling, loitering, sleeping in tents or vehicles, eating in public, and third parties distributing food to unhoused people violates the basic human and civil rights of unhoused individuals to exist in public without fear of law enforcement surveillance, harassment, violence, destruction of property, fines, vehicle impoundment, or arrest;

Whereas the vicious cycle of mass incarceration forces people to lose employment, homes, student loans, and financial assistance, and makes access to housing, gainful employment, education, and public assistance extraordinarily difficult for individuals reentering the community from the criminal and juvenile justice systems or with criminal records, thereby contributing to higher recidivism rates and exacerbating the unhoused crisis;

Whereas unhoused individuals lack the resources necessary to obtain adequate legal representation and are often denied

relief or damages through courts when they have been unfairly targeted by law enforcement officers, private businesses, property owners, or housed residents and have had their constitutional rights violated;

Whereas encampment sweeps, evictions, and cleanups, the removal of outdoor living spaces, or impounding vehicles being used as residences exacerbates the complex issues faced by unhoused individuals and fails to address the lack of affordable and accessible housing options;

Whereas neighborhood protection orders criminalize people without homes and needlessly bar individuals from accessing social services that will help them transition to permanent supportive housing;

Whereas unhoused people are disproportionately impacted by the climate crisis because chronic exposure to climate induced extreme weather and disasters including hurricanes, wildfire, freezing temperatures, and extreme heat conditions leaves unhoused persons susceptible to hypothermia, hyperthermia, frostbite, sunburn, heat exhaustion, and death;

Whereas hostile architecture and defensive urban design transform public spaces into impractical and unwelcoming environments for both housed and unhoused communities, by making benches thinner or with armrests to prevent laying down, building bus stops with no seating or shelter, deliberately placing gaps in awnings that allow in rain, adding rocks to parks, trails, and highway underpasses, installing devices that prohibit sitting, or adding spikes, rocks, or studs to flat surfaces to render them dysfunctional;

Whereas the Department of Housing and Urban Development point-in-time method to count the number of sheltered and unsheltered individuals in the United States undercounts children, youth, older adults, and families by not accounting for individuals who fall in and out of homelessness throughout the year, people who are sheltered with family or friends, or individuals temporarily residing in hotels, motels, medical facilities, and jails, and is limited to a count one night per year during one of the coldest months;

Whereas inadequate statistical methods for counting unhoused individuals severely limit the capacity of policymakers to develop accurate, data-driven legislation;

Whereas the long-term solution for ending the unhoused crisis is a housing first approach that provides adequate, accessible, and affordable permanent housing for unhoused individuals, without preconditions and low or no barriers to entry, and permanently fosters conditions that prevent persons from becoming unhoused;

Whereas rates of homelessness continue to rise, the overburdened repair backlog for public housing units is estimated at over \$70,000,000,000, and the overburdened tenant-based “section 8” rental assistance program, also known as a housing choice voucher, is not funded by Congress at the level necessary to match the ever-increasing demand for housing assistance;

Whereas emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, permanent supportive housing initiatives, and rapid rehousing programs are inadequately funded and unable to keep up with the constant demand to provide adequate temporary, transitional, or permanent housing for unhoused individuals;

Whereas the cost of maintaining an unhoused population places undue financial burden on taxpayers of an amount between \$30,000 and \$50,000 each year for each chronically unhoused person because of the costs of incarceration, medical treatments, jails, detention centers, psychiatric and rehabilitation institutions, congregate shelter that does not lead to permanent housing, law enforcement costs of encampment cleanups and evictions, and the criminalization of unhoused people;

Whereas there are nearly 16,000,000 vacant homes in the United States that are available to house individuals and families, and the cost to end the unhoused crisis is at least \$20,000,000,000, nearly 2 percent of the 2024 fiscal year defense budget of \$886,300,000,000;

Whereas a lack of political will at the Federal, State, and local levels of government drastically restricts the amount of funding available for States, counties, cities, and municipalities to provide services and resources to unhoused communities; and

Whereas addressing the roots of the housing affordability crisis requires a sustained commitment to investing in new affordable, accessible housing, preserving affordable rental homes that already exist, bridging the gap between incomes and rent through universal rental assistance, providing emergency assistance to stabilize renters when they experience financial shocks, and establishing strong renter protections: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

3 This resolution may be cited as the “Unhoused Per-
4 sons Bill of Rights”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHING PROTECTIONS FOR UNHOUSED IN-**
2 **DIVIDUALS FROM VIOLATIONS OF THEIR**
3 **RIGHTS.**

4 (a) PROTECTED RIGHTS OF UNHOUSED INDIVID-
5 UALS.—It is the sense of the House of Representatives
6 that the United States must protect the fundamental civil
7 and human rights of unhoused individuals, including—

8 (1) the right to decent, affordable, and acces-
9 sible housing, livable wages, and universal health
10 care;

11 (2) the right for persons reentering the commu-
12 nity from the criminal justice system to access pub-
13 lic housing, voucher programs, rental assistance pro-
14 grams, employment, higher education grants, schol-
15 arships, and Federal student loans without discrimi-
16 nation on the basis of their criminal record;

17 (3) the rights, privileges, or access of an indi-
18 vidual to public services, parks, sidewalks, transpor-
19 tation, buildings, or facilities without discrimination
20 on the basis of their housing status;

21 (4) the right to uninhibited access to public
22 parks, transportation, facilities, sidewalks, buildings,
23 and restrooms without discrimination on the basis of
24 their housing status;

25 (5) the right to access safe and clean restroom
26 facilities, safe and clean drinking water, public

1 handwashing facilities, and public electricity sources
2 without discrimination on the basis of their housing
3 status;

4 (6) the right to access 24-hour and disaster
5 emergency shelters, transitional housing, social serv-
6 ices, public housing, and voucher programs without
7 discrimination on the basis of their housing status;

8 (7) the right not to be subject to penalties for
9 standing, walking, resting, or sleeping in a public
10 place or vehicle in a nonobstructive manner, includ-
11 ing relying on tents, sleeping bags, additional cloth-
12 ing, or other supplies intended to make sleep com-
13 fortable and possible;

14 (8) the right to pray, meditate, or practice reli-
15 gion in public spaces without being subject to crimi-
16 nal or civil sanctions, harassment, or arrest;

17 (9) the right to solicit donations in public
18 spaces without being subject to criminal or civil
19 sanctions, harassment, or arrest in a manner that
20 violates the right to free speech;

21 (10) the right to engage in lawful self-employ-
22 ment, including the right to seek self-employment in
23 junk removal and recycling that requires the collec-
24 tion, possession, redemption, and storage of goods

1 for reuse and recycling, without being subject to
2 criminal or civil sanctions, harassment, or arrest;

3 (11) the right to not face discrimination while
4 seeking employment or public assistance due to a
5 lack of permanent mailing address, or the use of a
6 mailing address from a shelter, library, or social
7 service provider;

8 (12) the right to internet access and technology
9 that will enable accessing the internet;

10 (13) the right to obtain copies of identification
11 documents, including social security cards, without
12 difficulty or discrimination based on housing status;

13 (14) the right to vote, register to vote, and re-
14 ceive documentation necessary to prove identity for
15 voting without discrimination due to housing status
16 or use of a shelter, library, or social service provider
17 for an address;

18 (15) the right to receive emergency and non-
19 emergency medical care without discrimination based
20 on housing status;

21 (16) the right for unhoused children to access
22 high-quality education without discrimination due to
23 their housing status;

24 (17) the right to confidentiality of personal and
25 medical records, documentation, and information;

1 (18) the right to a reasonable expectation of
2 privacy in personal property to the same extent as
3 personal property in a permanent residence; and

4 (19) the right to protest, gather in groups, and
5 conduct community outreach without harassment by
6 law enforcement or private citizens.

7 (b) PROTECTIONS OF UNHOUSED INDIVIDUALS.—It
8 is the sense of the House of Representatives that the
9 United States must establish regulations and enforcement
10 tools to protect unhoused individuals from the violation
11 of their fundamental civil and human rights, including
12 protections from—

13 (1) law enforcement against undue surveillance,
14 mistreatment, harassment, destruction of personal
15 property, vehicle impoundment, and unjustified de-
16 tention, searches, ticketing, and arrests; and

17 (2) private businesses, property owners, includ-
18 ing business improvement districts, and housed resi-
19 dents against discrimination, harassment, mistreat-
20 ment, assault, detention, banishment, and destruc-
21 tion of private property.

22 (c) PROTECTIONS FOR THIRD PARTIES PROVIDING
23 SERVICES TO UNHOUSED INDIVIDUALS.—It is the sense
24 of the House of Representatives that the United States
25 must establish blanket legal protections for third parties

1 distributing food, beverages, clothing, or providing services
2 to unhoused individuals and communities.

3 (d) CIVIL ACTIONS FOR A VIOLATION OF THE
4 RIGHTS OF UNHOUSED INDIVIDUALS.—It is the sense of
5 the House of Representatives that the United States must
6 establish a process such that in any civil action alleging
7 a violation of rights described previously, a court may
8 award appropriate damages and all attorney’s fees and
9 costs to a prevailing plaintiff, and the court may take into
10 consideration housing status and apply leniency while at-
11 tempting to compile records, receipts, and documentation
12 from the plaintiff.

13 **SEC. 3. ACTIONS IN PURSUIT OF PROTECTION OF THE**
14 **RIGHTS OF UNHOUSED INDIVIDUALS.**

15 (a) FUNDING.—The House of Representatives shall
16 strive to provide funding for the following:

17 (1) The House of Representatives shall strive to
18 allocate—

19 (A) not less than \$20,000,000,000 from
20 the defense budget to permanently end and pre-
21 vent the unhoused crisis in the United States;

22 (B) \$140,000,000,000 every 5 years in the
23 Public Housing Capital Fund to urge the Sub-
24 committee on Transportation, Housing and
25 Urban Development, and Related Agencies of

1 the Committee on Appropriations of the House
2 of Representatives to preserve public housing
3 units for future generations;

4 (C) full funding for the Public Housing
5 Operating Fund to better support this impor-
6 tant source of affordable housing until the
7 United States has permanently ended and pre-
8 vented the unhoused crisis;

9 (D) \$40,000,000,000 annually in the De-
10 partment of Housing and Urban Development
11 National Housing Trust Fund to build and pre-
12 serve homes affordable to the lowest-income and
13 most marginalized households in the United
14 States;

15 (E) \$3,000,000,000 annually for a perma-
16 nent Emergency Rental Assistance Program ad-
17 ministered by the Department of Housing and
18 Urban Development;

19 (F) the highest level of funding possible for
20 city, county, State, Indian Tribal governments,
21 and local governments to build and maintain
22 24-hour public restrooms, handwashing sta-
23 tions, showers, laundry facilities, and water
24 fountains in proportion to their respective
25 unhoused population; and

1 (G) robust funding for States, Indian Trib-
2 al governments, cities, localities, and munic-
3 palities to provide trash cans, recycling bins,
4 sharps disposal containers, and frequent gar-
5 bage removal services to unhoused camps and
6 common areas in coordination with local
7 unhoused advocates and community-based orga-
8 nizations.

9 (2) The House of Representatives shall strive to
10 provide the highest possible funding level for Federal
11 housing and supportive services programs, includ-
12 ing—

13 (A) the Department of Housing and Urban
14 Development Continuum of Care (CoC) pro-
15 gram;

16 (B) the Department of Housing and
17 Urban Development Emergency Solutions
18 Grants (ESG) program;

19 (C) the Department of Housing and Urban
20 Development-Veterans Affairs Supportive Hous-
21 ing (HUD-VASH) program;

22 (D) the Department of Housing and
23 Urban Development Community Development
24 Block Grants (CDBG) program;

1 (E) the Violence Against Women Act
2 (VAWA) transitional housing assistance grants
3 program for survivors of domestic violence, dat-
4 ing violence, sexual assault, and stalking;

5 (F) the Substance Abuse and Mental
6 Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
7 Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals
8 (GBHI) program;

9 (G) the Substance Abuse and Mental
10 Health Services Administration Treatment for
11 Individuals Experiencing Homelessness (TIEH)
12 program;

13 (H) the Substance Abuse and Mental
14 Health Services Administration Projects for As-
15 sistance in Transition from Homelessness
16 (PATH) program;

17 (I) Health Resources and Services Admin-
18 istration health center programs, particularly
19 the Health Care for the Homeless program;

20 (J) the Health Resources and Services Ad-
21 ministration Primary Care Human Immuno-
22 deficiency Virus Prevention (PCHP) program;
23 and

1 (K) the Department of Education McKin-
2 ney-Vento Education for Homeless Children
3 and Youth (EHCY) Act program.

4 (3) The House of Representatives shall strive to
5 provide the highest level of funding to—

6 (A) permanently provide nutritious,
7 healthy, and expansive universal school meals
8 for K–12 students;

9 (B) drastically expand eligibility, income
10 thresholds, and time limitations and remove all
11 purchase restrictions for the Supplemental Nu-
12 trition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary
13 Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) pro-
14 gram, and Special Supplemental Nutrition Pro-
15 gram for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC);
16 and

17 (C) remove food assistance restrictions on
18 the purchase of hot foods and ready-to-eat
19 foods at retailers that accept the Supplemental
20 Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

21 (4) The House of Representatives shall strive to
22 provide robust Federal funding and resources to ag-
23 gressively enforce fair housing and civil rights laws.

1 (b) LOW-INCOME HOUSING.—The House of Rep-
2 resentatives shall strive to increase the availability of low-
3 income housing by—

4 (1) funding the construction of permanent low-
5 income housing to replenish all of the units that
6 have been removed from the stock since 1978;

7 (2) fully funding subsidies to operate additional
8 units to meet demand; and

9 (3) repealing the Faireloth Amendment to allow
10 a net increase in the number of public housing units.

11 (c) HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHERS.—The House of
12 Representatives shall strive to provide universal housing
13 choice vouchers to all eligible households through the ten-
14 ant-based “section 8” rental assistance program.

15 (d) RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH AND TRAF-
16 FICKING PREVENTION ACT CONSOLIDATED PROGRAMS.—
17 The House of Representatives shall strive to reauthorize
18 and provide at least \$300,000,000 to the Runaway and
19 Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act consoli-
20 dated programs, including the street outreach program.

21 (e) FAIR HOUSING ACT PROTECTIONS.—The House
22 of Representatives shall strive to—

23 (1) bolster and enforce tenant protections
24 against discrimination as described in the Fair
25 Housing Act; and

1 (2) expand the Fair Housing Act to ban dis-
2 crimination based on previous housing status, ad-
3 verse effects of domestic violence, sexual orientation,
4 gender identity, marital status, and source of in-
5 come, particularly in shelters, transitional housing
6 programs, permanent supportive housing initiatives,
7 and rapid rehousing programs.

8 (f) DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVEL-
9 OPMENT REQUIREMENTS.—The House of Representatives
10 shall strive to require the Department of Housing and
11 Urban Development to—

12 (1) develop policies, guidelines, and procedures
13 for permanently eradicating the unhoused crisis by
14 2027;

15 (2) work in coordination with tenant advocates
16 community-based organizations to develop, imple-
17 ment, and enforce regulations that disrupt and re-
18 verse trends of neighborhood displacement,
19 gentrification, and redlining that disproportionately
20 impact communities of color, particularly Black and
21 brown communities;

22 (3) develop, implement, and enforce regulations
23 to immediately remove barriers which prevent people
24 with criminal backgrounds and undocumented immi-

1 grants from accessing public housing, section 8
2 vouchers, and rental assistance programs;

3 (4) work in partnership with community-based
4 organizations and advocates to bolster criminal jus-
5 tice reentry programs and wraparound services to
6 prevent individuals from becoming unhoused
7 postrelease;

8 (5) develop, implement, and enforce perform-
9 ance standards and regulations for immediately
10 making all public shelters, transitional housing pro-
11 grams, and supportive services available 24 hours
12 each day, and prohibit these programs from profiling
13 unhoused individuals, denying services, and discrimi-
14 nating against individuals based on their medical
15 conditions and treatments, gender identity, criminal
16 background, immigration status, and other protected
17 classes of the Fair Housing Act;

18 (6) work in coordination with the Department
19 of Health and Human Services, the Health Re-
20 sources and Services Administration, and related
21 health agencies to provide 24-hour medical respite
22 programs to cities, counties, Indian Tribal Govern-
23 ments, and States to allow unhoused people to fully
24 recover from medical conditions or injuries without
25 fear of premature discharge;

1 (7) develop and implement processes to
2 prioritize funding allocations directly to grassroots
3 and community-based organizations, as well as orga-
4 nizations led by impacted individuals who provide di-
5 rect supportive and housing, medical, and emergency
6 services to unhoused persons;

7 (8) develop and implement more accurate meth-
8 ods of counting unhoused individuals throughout the
9 duration of the year, accounting for individuals re-
10 siding inside of housing structures with family and
11 friends, undocumented immigrants, unhoused indi-
12 viduals in jails, medical, and rehabilitation facilities,
13 and those who experience temporary homelessness
14 throughout the year;

15 (9) make the Homeless Management Informa-
16 tion System (HMIS) more comprehensive by imple-
17 menting biennial gaps analyses to identify gaps in
18 access to housing or services appropriate to meet the
19 needs of unhoused persons and make recommenda-
20 tions to improve the system components that worsen
21 the quality of life for unhoused persons, including—

22 (A) the accessibility of information and
23 barriers to accessing existing housing resources
24 and services;

1 (B) the geographic and physical location of
2 programs within the respective region;

3 (C) the quality of outreach in identifying
4 and targeting unhoused individuals and families
5 for services;

6 (D) the ability of prevention services to
7 prevent individuals from becoming unhoused in
8 the first place; and

9 (E) the quality of access to supportive
10 services and resources for unhoused persons in
11 emergency shelters, transitional housing pro-
12 grams, permanent supportive housing, and
13 rapid rehousing programs;

14 (10) develop policies and guidelines for imple-
15 menting the new method of unhoused population
16 measurement and gaps analyses and present a re-
17 port to the Committee on Financial Services of the
18 House of Representatives within 6 months of the en-
19 acted legislation;

20 (11) work in coordination with the Centers for
21 Disease Control and Prevention to develop proce-
22 dures to track and report the number of deaths di-
23 rectly caused by persons being unhoused in the
24 United States;

1 (12) work in coordination with all Federal
2 agencies that service unhoused people to designate
3 federally subsidized shelters, libraries, social service
4 providers, and other institutions as fixed addresses
5 to be used by multiple unhoused people to receive
6 mail, employment opportunities, and documents, and
7 to vote and conduct all business in a manner similar
8 to housed people;

9 (13) coordinate with the Department of Trans-
10 portation and the National Parks Service to restrict
11 the use of Federal funding on hostile architecture
12 projects and to remove hostile architecture from all
13 privately owned public spaces, public parks, trails,
14 sidewalks, buildings, and transportation facilities;

15 (14) work in coordination with the Social Secu-
16 rity Administration to develop guidance and regula-
17 tions creating hardship exemptions for individuals
18 who have difficulty obtaining social security docu-
19 mentation and benefits due to their housing status;
20 and

21 (15) coordinate with local community stake-
22 holders, housing advocates, shelters, churches, and
23 transitional housing programs to register and receive
24 voting ballots for unhoused persons, in coordination

1 with the Department of Health and Human Services
2 and related social services.

3 (g) PUBLIC HEALTH.—The House of Representatives
4 shall strive to require the Department of Health and
5 Human Services to declare the unhoused crisis a public
6 health emergency and work in coordination with the
7 Health Resources and Services Administration to imme-
8 diately provide guidance to mitigate the compounding ef-
9 fects of the unhoused and public health crises, particularly
10 as it relates to the COVID–19 pandemic, human immuno-
11 deficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome,
12 hepatitis, tuberculosis, and other communicable diseases.

13 (h) FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAMS.—The House of
14 Representatives shall strive to require Federal grant pro-
15 grams to establish guidelines for measuring direct impact
16 to communities and holding grant awardees to the highest
17 levels of community accountability, particularly in relation
18 to the impact of the programs on unhoused persons dis-
19 proportionately impacted by criminalization and discrimi-
20 nation.

21 (i) LAW ENFORCEMENT ANNUAL STATISTICS.—The
22 House of Representatives shall—

23 (1) encourage law enforcement agencies to com-
24 pile annual statistics showing the number of in-
25 stances of physical violence against unhoused indi-

1 individuals, as well as citations, arrests, and other law
2 enforcement activities, to track instances of crim-
3 inalizing unhoused populations, including camp
4 cleanups, vagrancy violations, sleeping in public, ve-
5 hicle citations, street sweeps, and panhandling cita-
6 tions, and provide these annual statistics to the De-
7 partment of Justice; and

8 (2) require the Department of Justice to com-
9 pile the data and statistics provided by law enforce-
10 ment agencies as incentivized in paragraph (1), and
11 present an annual report to Congress.

12 **SEC. 4. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**

13 The House of Representatives shall strive to require
14 the Department of Justice, the Department of Housing
15 and Urban Development, and the Department of Health
16 and Human Services to coordinate with community advo-
17 cates, policymakers, and unhoused people to develop
18 guidelines, policies, and procedures for decriminalizing
19 unhoused individuals and communities, and providing re-
20 sources and direct services to unhoused communities, and
21 make available a report to Congress not later than 6
22 months of the enactment of the relevant legislation.

○