

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 568

Expressing that the United States is obligated to permanently end the unhoused crisis by 2025 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, 2021

Ms. BUSH (for herself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. CARSON, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. EVANS, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. JONES, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia) 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 Labor, 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 2025 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 580,000 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, people with substance use disorders, and members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender nonconforming, and queer community;

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 resulting in massive job loss, rates of homelessness and housing insecurity have skyrocketed as millions of people across the Nation face financial instability, imminent eviction, and the threat of becoming unhoused through no fault of their own;

Whereas the pandemic has 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 lack of access to public restrooms, hand-washing 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, 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 fosters 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 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, 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, 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 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 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 leave 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 lying down, building bus stops with no seating or shelter, deliberate 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 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, 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 have risen for the fourth consecutive year, the overburdened repair backlog for public housing units is estimated at over \$70 billion, 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 re-housing 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 17,000,000 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, less than 3 percent of the 2021 fiscal year defense budget of \$754,019,000,000; and

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: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. ESTABLISHING PROTECTIONS FOR UNHOUSED**
3 **INDIVIDUALS FROM VIOLATIONS OF THEIR**
4 **RIGHTS.**

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

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

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

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

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

1 (5) the right to access safe and clean restroom
2 facilities, safe and clean drinking water, public hand-
3 washing facilities, and public electricity sources with-
4 out discrimination on the basis of their housing sta-
5 tus;

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

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

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

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

23 (10) the right to engage in lawful self-employ-
24 ment, including the right to seek self-employment in
25 junk removal and recycling that requires the collec-

1 tion, possession, redemption, and storage of goods
2 for reuse and recycling, without being subject to
3 criminal or civil sanctions, harassment, or arrest;

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 (17) the right to confidentiality of personal and
2 medical records, documentation, and information;
3 and

4 (18) the right to a reasonable expectation of
5 privacy in personal property to the same extent as
6 personal property in a permanent residence.

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. 2. ACTIONS IN PURSUIT OF PROTECTION OF THE**
 14 **RIGHTS OF UNHOUSED INDIVIDUALS.**

15 (a) FUNDING.—The House of Representative 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 five years in
 23 the Public Housing Capital Fund to urge the
 24 Subcommittee on Transportation, and Housing
 25 and Urban Development of the Committee on

1 Appropriations of the House of Representatives,
2 and related agencies 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) the highest level of funding possible
16 for city, county, State, Indian Tribal govern-
17 ments, and local governments to build and
18 maintain 24-hour public restrooms, hand-wash-
19 ing stations, showers, laundry facilities, and
20 water fountains in proportion to their respective
21 unhoused population; and

22 (F) robust funding for States, Indian Trib-
23 al governments, cities, localities, and munici-
24 palities to provide trash cans, recycling bins,
25 sharps disposal containers, and frequent gar-

1 bage removal services to unhoused camps and
2 common areas in coordination with local
3 unhoused advocates and community-based orga-
4 nizations.

5 (2) The House of Representatives shall strive to
6 provide the highest possible funding level for Federal
7 housing and supportive services programs, includ-
8 ing—

9 (A) the Department of Housing and Urban
10 Development Continuum of Care (CoC) pro-
11 gram;

12 (B) the Department of Housing and
13 Urban Development Emergency Solutions
14 Grants (ESG) program;

15 (C) the Department of Housing and Urban
16 Development-Veterans Affairs Supportive Hous-
17 ing (HUD-VASH) program;

18 (D) the Department of Housing and
19 Urban Development Community Development
20 Block Grants (CDBG);

21 (E) Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)
22 transitional housing assistance grants program
23 for survivors of domestic violence, dating vio-
24 lence, sexual assault, and stalking;

1 (F) Substance Abuse and Mental Health
2 Services Administration (SAMHSA) Grants for
3 the Benefit of Homeless Individuals (GBHI)
4 program;

5 (G) Substance Abuse and Mental Health
6 Services Administration Treatment for Individ-
7 uals Experiencing Homelessness (TIEH) pro-
8 gram;

9 (H) Substance Abuse and Mental Health
10 Services Administration Projects for Assistance
11 in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) pro-
12 gram;

13 (I) Health Resources and Services Admin-
14 istration health center programs, particularly
15 the Health Care for the Homeless program;

16 (J) Health Resources and Services Admin-
17 istration Primary Care Human Immuno-
18 deficiency Virus Prevention (PCHIP) program;
19 and

20 (K) the Department of Education McKin-
21 ney-Vento Education for Homeless Children
22 and Youth (EHCY) Act program.

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

1 (A) permanently provide nutritious,
2 healthy, and expansive universal school meals
3 for K–12 students;

4 (B) drastically expand eligibility, income
5 thresholds, and time limitations and remove all
6 purchase restrictions for the Supplemental Nu-
7 trition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary
8 Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and
9 Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for
10 Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and

11 (C) remove food assistance restrictions on
12 the purchase of hot foods and ready-to-eat
13 foods at retailers that accept the Supplemental
14 Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

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

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

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

24 (2) fully funding subsidies to operate additional
25 units to meet demand; and

1 (3) repealing the Faircloth Amendment to allow
2 a net increase in the number of public housing units.

3 (c) HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHERS.—The House of
4 Representatives shall strive to provide universal housing
5 choice vouchers to all eligible households through the Ten-
6 ant-Based “Section 8” Rental Assistance program.

7 (d) RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH AND TRAF-
8 FICKING PREVENTION ACT CONSOLIDATED PROGRAMS.—
9 The House of Representatives shall strive to reauthorize
10 and provide at least \$300,000,000 to the Runaway and
11 Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act consoli-
12 dated programs, including the street outreach program.

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

15 (1) bolster and enforce tenant protections
16 against discrimination as described in the Fair
17 Housing Act; and

18 (2) expand the Fair Housing Act to ban dis-
19 crimination based on previous housing status, ad-
20 verse effects of domestic violence, sexual orientation,
21 gender identity, marital status, and source of in-
22 come, particularly in shelters, transitional housing
23 programs, permanent supportive housing initiatives,
24 and rapid rehousing programs.

1 (f) DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVEL-
2 OPMENT REQUIREMENTS.—The House of Representatives
3 shall strive to require the Department of Housing and
4 Urban Development to—

5 (1) develop policies, guidelines, and procedures
6 for permanently eradicating the unhoused crisis by
7 2025;

8 (2) work in coordination with tenant advocates
9 community-based organizations to develop, imple-
10 ment, and enforce regulations that disrupt and re-
11 verse trends of neighborhood displacement,
12 gentrification, and redlining that disproportionately
13 impact communities of color, particularly Black and
14 Brown communities;

15 (3) develop, implement, and enforce regulations
16 to immediately remove barriers which prevent people
17 with criminal backgrounds and undocumented immi-
18 grants from accessing public housing, Section 8
19 vouchers, and rental assistance programs;

20 (4) work in partnership with community-based
21 organizations and advocates to bolster criminal jus-
22 tice reentry programs and wraparound services to
23 prevent individuals from becoming unhoused post-re-
24 lease;

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

11 (6) work in coordination with the Department
12 of Health and Human Services, the Health Re-
13 sources and Services Administration, and related
14 health agencies to provide 24-hour medical respite
15 programs to cities, counties, Indian Tribal govern-
16 ments and States to allow unhoused people to fully
17 recover from medical conditions or injuries without
18 fear of premature discharge;

19 (7) develop and implement processes to
20 prioritize funding allocations directly to grassroots
21 and community-based organizations, as well as orga-
22 nizations led by impacted individuals who provide di-
23 rect supportive and housing, medical, and emergency
24 services to unhoused persons;

1 (8) develop and implement more accurate meth-
2 ods of counting unhoused individuals throughout the
3 duration of the year, accounting for individuals re-
4 siding inside of housing structures with family and
5 friends, undocumented immigrants, unhoused indi-
6 viduals in jails, medical, and rehabilitation facilities,
7 and those who experience temporary homelessness
8 throughout the year;

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

16 (A) the accessibility of information and
17 barriers to accessing existing housing resources
18 and services;

19 (B) the geographic and physical location of
20 programs within the respective region;

21 (C) the quality of outreach in identifying
22 and targeting unhoused individuals and families
23 for services;

1 (D) the ability of prevention services to
2 prevent individuals from becoming unhoused in
3 the first place; and

4 (E) the quality of access to supportive
5 services and resources for unhoused persons in
6 emergency shelters, transitional housing pro-
7 grams, permanent supportive housing, and
8 rapid rehousing programs;

9 (10) develop policies and guidelines for imple-
10 menting the new method of unhoused population
11 measurement and gaps analyses and present a re-
12 port to the Committee on Financial Services of the
13 House of Representatives within six months of the
14 enacted legislation;

15 (11) work in coordination with the Centers for
16 Disease Control and Prevention to develop proce-
17 dures to track and report the number of deaths di-
18 rectly caused by persons being unhoused in the
19 United States;

20 (12) work in coordination with all Federal
21 agencies that service unhoused people to designate
22 federally subsidized shelters, libraries, social service
23 providers, and other institutions as fixed addresses
24 to be used by multiple unhoused people to receive
25 mail, employment opportunities, documents, vote,

1 and conduct all business in a manner similar to
2 housed people;

3 (13) coordinate with the Department of Trans-
4 portation and the National Parks Service to restrict
5 the use of Federal funding on hostile architecture
6 projects and to remove hostile architecture from all
7 privately owned public spaces, public parks, trails,
8 sidewalks, buildings, and transportation facilities;

9 (14) work in coordination with the Social Secu-
10 rity Administration, to develop guidance and regula-
11 tions creating hardship exemptions for individuals
12 who have difficulty obtaining social security docu-
13 mentation and benefits due to their housing status;
14 and

15 (15) coordinate with local community stake-
16 holders, housing advocates, shelters, churches, and
17 transitional housing programs to register and receive
18 voting ballots for unhoused persons, in coordination
19 with the Department of Health and Human Services
20 and related social services.

21 (g) PUBLIC HEALTH.—The House of Representatives
22 shall strive to require the Department of Health and
23 Human Services to declare the unhoused crisis a public
24 health emergency and work in coordination with the
25 Health Resources and Services Administration to imme-

1 diately provide guidance to mitigate the compounding ef-
2 fects of the unhoused and public health crises, particularly
3 as it relates to the COVID–19 pandemic, human immuno-
4 deficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome,
5 hepatitis, tuberculosis, and other communicable diseases.

6 (h) FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAMS.—The House of
7 Representatives shall strive to require Federal grant pro-
8 grams to establish guidelines for measuring direct impact
9 to communities and holding grant awardees to the highest
10 levels of community accountability, particularly in relation
11 to the impact of the programs on unhoused persons dis-
12 proportionately impacted by criminalization and discrimi-
13 nation.

14 (i) LAW ENFORCEMENT ANNUAL STATISTICS.—The
15 House of Representatives shall—

16 (1) encourage law enforcement agencies to com-
17 pile annual statistics showing the number of in-
18 stances of physical violence against unhoused indi-
19 viduals, as well as citations, arrests, and other law
20 enforcement activities to track instances of criminal-
21 izing unhoused populations, including camp clean-
22 ups, vagrancy violations, sleeping in public, vehicle
23 citations, street sweeps, and panhandling citations
24 and provide these annual statistics to the Depart-
25 ment of Justice; and

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

5 **SEC. 3. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**

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

○