

## Dear Supporters and Endorsers of the Housing Not Handcuffs campaign,

Our campaign continues to grow, up to 429 [endorsements](#), including from Bridgeport, CT, City Councilor Scott Burns and Tallahassee Commissioner Gil Ziffer!

We are looking forward to our [national convening](#) in June, and we hope to see you there!

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## Follow the campaign

# Register today for Housing Not Handcuffs: National Forum on the Human Right to Housing

Please [join us](#) at the Housing Not Handcuffs national forum, June 6-7 in Washington, DC, generously hosted by the law firm of Sidley Austin. The forum will include discussions on a number of important topics, from the intersectional forms of discrimination that result in the criminalization of homelessness to the models of advocacy that are succeeding in cities and counties. The goal and focus of the forum, will be strategizing and planning our collective work moving forward. We have lots of exciting speakers lined up, including Catherine Lhamon, Chair of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, Professor Peter Edelman of Georgetown University Law Center, and Pam Fessler of NPR News. **Scholarships** are available and prioritized for homeless and formerly homeless advocates and other low-income individuals but you must apply ASAP! [Register today!](#)

## Campaign News and Updates

### Local Updates

- **Denver criminal trial finds advocates guilty, but criminalization lawsuit gets class action status** – The [trial](#) for Denver homeless advocates fighting the anti-camping ban found the three advocates arrested under the law [guilty](#) in April. However, a related civil case seeking to overturn the ban also got underway, with the [certification of homeless plaintiffs as a class](#). The case, *Lyall et. Al. v. City of Denver*, will continue, but the class certification is a huge step in a positive direction.
- **Houston litigation filed against anti-camping and panhandling ordinances** – The ACLU of TX, joined by NLCHP, [filed a case](#) on behalf

of three homeless persons harmed by Houston's new ordinances against camping and panhandling. The plaintiffs argue that these ordinances, prohibiting "encampments in a public place" and "aggressive panhandling," violate their constitutional rights.

- **Rhode Island Homeless Advocates Winning in the Streets and in the Press** – The Rhode Island Homeless Bill of Rights Group has been taking to the streets with direct actions, fighting local panhandling bans, and garnering significant media attention, including from [NPR](#) and [US News and World Report](#).
- **Policy Forum on Preventing and Ending Homelessness in NYC** – A [policy forum on preventing and ending homelessness in NYC](#) is being hosted by Care for the Homeless at Long Island University Brooklyn, on June 14, 8:30am-4:30pm.
- **ACLU of SoCal Hiring** – The ACLU of Southern California is hiring a staff attorney to be dedicated to their "Dignity For All" project, focused on protecting homeless persons' rights. Details [here](#).

## State Updates

- **Delaware Homeless Bill of Rights Introduced** – [HerStory Ensemble](#), working together with many other partners and committed state senators and representatives, introduced the [Delaware Homeless Bill of Rights](#) in late March with 14 cosponsors. The bill is currently in the Judicial and Community Affairs Committee.
- **Colorado Right to Rest Act stopped in committee** – On Wednesday April 19, 2017 the Local Government Committee of the Colorado State Legislature voted 5 to 8 against the [Colorado Right to Rest Act](#). This vote came at the end of an 11 hour hearing including testimony from over 60 people supporting the Right to Rest and 5 people who testified against.
- **Oregon Right to Rest Act dies without being scheduled for a vote** – In spite of an unprecedented seven co-sponsors, Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee Representative Jeff Barker refused to schedule the [Oregon Right to Rest Act](#) for a hearing in the assembly Judiciary Committee, prior to the deadline for a vote. The case for the bill was made stronger by an amazing [video](#) and a new [report](#) from the ACLU of Oregon on decriminalizing homelessness.

## National Updates

- **Vacant Property Webinar & Toolkit** – NLCHP released its new [Public Property/Public Need](#) toolkit together with a [webinar](#) to help public and private non-profit service providers obtain unused federal properties to serve and house homeless people. Under Title V of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (Title V), local governments, state agencies, and non-profit groups that serve homeless people have a right to obtain, for free, property that is no longer needed by the federal government. This toolkit provides an overview of the Title V program, and answers many commonly asked questions about how to

identify and successfully apply for available properties.

- **Housing Messaging Webinar** – NLIHC is hosting a [webinar](#) on Getting the Message Right: How to Stop Trump's Proposed Cuts to Affordable Housing, on Friday, May 19, 3-4pm ET. The Center for American Progress, Enterprise Community Partners, and the National Housing Conference will share new research, polling, and information about science-backed messaging practices and how to use them effectively in advocacy for new housing resources.
- **CarsonWatch** – For those interested in staying up to date on HUD Secretary Carson and the Trump Administration's actions on housing, subscribe to [CarsonWatch](#).

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[housingnohandcuffs.org](http://housingnohandcuffs.org)