

# HOUSING NOT HANDCUFFS



## Trump, Homelessness, and the Road Ahead How We're Fighting Back

February 20th, 2025

**HOUSING**  
NOT HANDCUFFS

housingnohandcuffs.org  
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homelesslaw.org  
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**NHLC**  
NATIONAL  
HOMELESSNESS  
LAW CENTER

# AGENDA

- Ground rules and introductions
- Trump's agenda will make housing more expensive
- Trump's agenda will push more people into homelessness
- Trump's agenda will make it harder to solve homelessness
- Trump's agenda will punish people for experiencing homelessness
- Lessons from Kentucky and what we can learn as a nation
- Questions and answers

# GROUP NORMS

Anyone expressing racist, transphobic, homophobic, ableist, or otherwise oppressive sentiment will be immediately removed from the meeting.

We are all trying our best. Please come with an open mind and engage in good faith.

Use the Q & A function to ask a question.

Use the chat to share thoughts or resources with the whole group.

# Trump's quotes

"create tent cities where the homeless can be relocated and their problems identified"

Under my strategy, **working with states**, we will **BAN urban camping** wherever possible,"

SINCE THE GRANTS PASS DECISION.....

# 190+ LAWS

CRIMINALIZING HOMELESSNESS

HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED NATIONWIDE



145+ PASSED

45+ PENDING

- Nearly half have been introduced in California alone
- Nearly all include or enforce bans on public camping
- 10 bills propose \$1000+ fines for public camping
- ILLINOIS: 4 bans passed, 4 pending

# HUD Secretary's troubling answers

7. Do you support a national ban on camping and sleeping on public property?

This issue is not under HUD's jurisdiction. A national ban on camping and sleeping on public property would require an act of Congress.

8. Do you support the creation of relocation camps for Americans who are homeless?

I am deeply concerned about the dramatic rise in homelessness in this nation. In its 2024 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report, HUD found that 771,480 individuals were experiencing homelessness on a single night in January 2024. That is the highest number ever recorded and a 32 percent increase from only two years ago.

Despite record funding levels, HUD is failing at its most basic mission. If confirmed, I plan to undertake a thorough review of HUD's homelessness policies and its continued reliance on the Housing First model. It's clear to me our current approach to addressing homelessness is badly broken.

9. Will you oppose and stand up to any efforts to create such camps?

See above.

*Figure 1: responses to QFRs to Senator Tina Smith via  
<https://x.com/BrendanPedersen/status/1882494068418318616>*



Adam Crafton, New York Times

## \* VOCAL-KY

Shameka is the Director of VOCAL-KY and a long-time community organizer, successful project and campaign manager and social justice activist. She is formerly homeless, formerly incarcerated, and was the child of an incarcerated person. Her family has been impacted by HIV and the war on drugs. She is also the Louisville City Council Member representing D3.



# SHAMEKA PARRISH-WRIGHT






# Kentucky Is About to Pass the Cruelest Criminal-Justice Bill in America

**Few attend Louisville's first program to clear  
unlawful camping citations**

**'Safer Kentucky Act' makes me  
afraid that we're turning our backs  
on those in need**

<b>Title</b>	Unhoused Individuals - Rights, Civil Action, and Affirmative Defense
<b>Sponsored by</b>	Senator <a href="#">Muse</a>
<b>Status</b>	In the Senate - Hearing 2/06 at 1:00 p.m.
<b>Analysis</b>	<a href="#">Fiscal and Policy Note</a>
<b>Synopsis</b>	Providing that all unhoused individuals have certain rights; authorizing the Attorney General or an individual harmed by a violation of the Act to bring a certain civil action against a political subdivision, a unit of State or local government, or a government official; establishing an affirmative defense of necessity to certain criminal charges relating to trespass or disturbing the peace; and repealing the authority of a municipality to prohibit vagrancy.
<b>Committees</b>	Original: <a href="#">Judicial Proceedings</a> 

# THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

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To stay up to date with Housing Not Handcuffs, be sure to join our mailing list and follow our social media!

 [housingnothandcuffs.org/join](https://housingnothandcuffs.org/join)

 [@HNHcampaign](https://twitter.com/HNHcampaign)

For questions, please email Jesse Rabinowitz (NHLC):

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