

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 10231

To prohibit entities that receive Federal funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development from compelling homeless persons to reside in facilities designated for housing homeless persons, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 2, 2026

Mr. FROST (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Ms. TLAI, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. ANSARI, Ms. SIMON, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. CASAR, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. DEXTER, Mrs. BEATTY, Mrs. MCIVER, Mrs. GRIJALVA, and Ms. JAYAPAL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To prohibit entities that receive Federal funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development from compelling homeless persons to reside in facilities designated for housing homeless persons, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “No Homeless Deten-
5 tion Centers Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Homelessness is growing across the United
4 States due to a lack of affordable housing and
5 health care options, economic hardship, systemic
6 racism, chronically low wages, underemployment and
7 unemployment, gentrification, housing discrimina-
8 tion, mass incarceration, discrimination based on im-
9 migration status, criminalization of poverty, domes-
10 tic violence, discrimination against lesbian, gay, bi-
11 sexual, transgender, gender nonconforming, and
12 queer individuals, trauma, disabilities, personal and
13 medical debt, a lack of affordable childcare, natural
14 disasters, barriers to the social safety net system,
15 and unexpected loss of household income.

16 (2) A primary response to the growth of home-
17 lessness at the local level has been to ban sleeping,
18 lying, sitting, standing, loitering, sheltering oneself
19 in public places, vagrancy, and soliciting donations.
20 More than 300 municipalities, counties, and States
21 have passed new laws criminalizing camping since
22 the decision in *City of Grants Pass v. Johnson*, 603
23 U.S. 520 (2024), overturned prior protections under
24 the Eighth Amendment for people experiencing
25 homelessness. Despite the growth of laws criminal-

1 izing camping over the past 4 decades, homelessness
2 has continued to increase.

3 (3) Many anti-vagrancy and anti-solicitation or-
4 dinances were passed in the immediate aftermath of
5 the Civil War as part of Jim Crow Black Codes to
6 enable incarceration of formerly enslaved persons
7 without jobs and force them back into involuntary
8 servitude through the loophole in the Thirteenth
9 Amendment that permits involuntary servitude as a
10 condition of punishment.

11 (4) More recently, the Cicero Institute has pro-
12 moted State legislation creating statewide camping
13 bans, penalizing communities that do not heavily en-
14 force such bans, and authorizing the creation of
15 State-run camps where unhoused people would be
16 forced to go under threat of arrest for violating such
17 camping bans. Versions of this legislation have
18 passed in Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, Okla-
19 homa, Tennessee, Texas, and Utah.

20 (5) In July 2025, supported by the Cicero Insti-
21 tute, President Trump issued Executive Order
22 14321 (90 Fed. Reg. 35817), conditioning Federal
23 grant funds to communities on whether such com-
24 munities enforce prohibitions on urban camping and
25 loitering, urban squatting, and illicit drug use, as

1 well as expanding the use of involuntary commit-
2 ments and decreasing access to permanent housing.
3 The Department of Housing and Urban Develop-
4 ment, the Department of Health and Human Serv-
5 ices, and the Department of Justice have all in-
6 cluded these conditions in grant applications, though
7 at least some of these conditions have been stayed
8 under court order. In August 2025, President
9 Trump ordered Federal law enforcement agents and
10 the National Guard into Washington, DC, to
11 “remov[e] homeless encampments from all over our
12 parks” and get “rid of the people from under-
13 passes”. President Trump has also called for the
14 creation of mass homeless camps where people would
15 be forced to go under threat of arrest.

16 (6) The Department of Homeland Security has
17 expanded the use of mass detention centers for im-
18 migrants, using sprung structure facilities, such as
19 the “Alligator Alcatraz” facility, and converting
20 warehouses for detention purposes. Similar proposals
21 for placing unhoused persons into both sprung struc-
22 tures and warehouses have been made in numerous
23 States.

24 (7) Utah Governor Spencer Cox explicitly in-
25 structed the Utah Homeless Services Board to align

1 their work with Executive Order 14321 (90 Fed.
2 Reg. 35817) and to accelerate planning for a mas-
3 sive 1,300 bed sprung structure facility, combining
4 locked-door facilities and “work-conditioned hous-
5 ing”. Unhoused persons would be forced to stay in
6 the facility under court order or under threat of hav-
7 ing anti-camping ordinances enforced against them
8 if they needed to sleep after leaving the facility. Vio-
9 lating a court mandate to stay in the “work-condi-
10 tioned housing” could result in imprisonment.

11 (8) West Virginia and Louisiana have also in-
12 troduced State legislation promoting forced labor for
13 unhoused persons as part of the sentences of such
14 persons for violating anti-camping laws.

15 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES.**

16 A recipient of Federal funds from the Department
17 of Housing and Urban Development may not—

18 (1) compel, by threat or imposition of punish-
19 ment, a person engaging in life-sustaining activities
20 on public property to reside in a facility designated
21 for housing or sheltering homeless persons;

22 (2) compel a person residing in a facility des-
23 ignated for housing or sheltering homeless persons
24 to provide labor in order to reside in such facility;

1 (3) threaten or impose punishment on a home-
2 less person because such person is engaging in life-
3 sustaining activities on public property; or

4 (4) provide assistance to any State or local law
5 enforcement officer or private contractor acting
6 under color of Federal law or receiving Federal
7 funds to threaten or impose punishment on a home-
8 less person because such person is engaging in life-
9 sustaining activities on public property.

10 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

11 In this Act:

12 (1) HOMELESS PERSON.—The term “homeless
13 person” has the meaning given that term in section
14 103(a) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance
15 Act (42 U.S.C. 11302(a)).

16 (2) LIFE-SUSTAINING ACTIVITIES.—The term
17 “life-sustaining activities” means those activities
18 necessary to maintain the basic biological health and
19 safety of a human being, including moving, resting,
20 sitting, standing, lying down, sleeping, protecting
21 oneself from the elements, eating, drinking, and
22 storing such personal property as is needed to safely
23 shelter oneself.

24 (3) PUBLIC PROPERTY.—The term “public
25 property” means any property that is owned or

1 leased, in whole or in part, by the United States or
2 by any State, unit of local government, Tribal gov-
3 ernment, or territory of the United States, including
4 areas adjacent to public property upon which there
5 is an easement for public use or that is held open
6 to the public, including—

7 (A) plazas;

8 (B) courtyards;

9 (C) parking lots;

10 (D) sidewalks;

11 (E) public transportation facilities and
12 services;

13 (F) public buildings;

14 (G) underpasses and lands adjacent to
15 roadways; and

16 (H) parks.

17 (4) PUNISHMENT.—The term “punishment”
18 means physical violence or civil or criminal legal con-
19 sequences, including—

20 (A) arrest;

21 (B) imposition of fines;

22 (C) revocation of privileges, such as rev-
23 ocation of a driver’s license; and

- 1 (D) limitation of legal rights, such as in-
- 2 voluntary commitment, conservatorship, or
- 3 guardianship.

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