



STATEMENT

July 2, 2019

Statement from the National Alliance to End Homelessness on President Trump's Comments on Homelessness

President Trump's comments on homelessness in American cities are long overdue but far off target.

Although the National Alliance to End Homelessness appreciates that the President views this crisis with urgency, his comment that, "we're really not very equipped as a government to be doing that kind of work," is surprising, given the success of the federal government in reducing homelessness over the past ten years.

In fact, the federal government is very well equipped to end homelessness and it has been doing so until recently. The 38 percent decrease in veteran homelessness and the 15 percent reduction in total homelessness in the United States since 2007 were driven by federal investments coupled with federal guidance that drove outcomes.

Today, these investments allow service providers in local communities across the country to find people experiencing homelessness, get them into shelter, and ultimately place them into housing, thereby ending their homelessness. Unfortunately, low income people can't keep up with the rising cost of housing, which is driving more and more people into homelessness.

Rather than funding the effective homeless system to scale and taking on the crisis in affordable housing, President Trump has proposed dramatic cuts to housing and homelessness programs every year since he has become President. As the President himself states, homelessness has been on the rise during this period.

"I agree with President Trump that something needs to be done about homelessness, and urgently," said Nan Roman, President and CEO of the National Alliance to End Homelessness. "For the past four Presidential administrations, Republicans and Democrats have stepped up and collaborated to support a robust federal response to the problem, and clearly, we know what works. I look forward to President Trump taking leadership to help to ramp up those solutions."

###

CONTACT:

Tom Murphy
Director of Communications
(202) 942-8254
tmurphy@naeh.org

About the National Alliance to End Homelessness The National Alliance to End Homelessness is a nonprofit, non-partisan, organization committed to preventing and ending homelessness in the United States. As a leading voice on the issue of homelessness, the Alliance analyzes policy and develops pragmatic, cost-effective policy solutions; works collaboratively with the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to build state and local capacity; and provides data and research to policymakers and elected officials in order to inform policy debates and educate the public and opinion leaders nationwide. www.EndHomelessness.org