

Legislation of Interest to the National Alliance to End Homelessness



The following is a list of bills introduced in the House and the Senate which have been endorsed by the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

- **The Ending Homelessness Act of 2023** (H.R. 4232) would end homelessness and significantly reduce poverty in America by transforming the Housing Choice Voucher program (also known as Section 8) into a federal entitlement, so that every household who qualifies for assistance would receive it. The bill would also ban housing discrimination based on source of income and veteran status.
 - *Sponsor: Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA).*
- **The Housing Crisis Response Act of 2023** (H.R. 4233) would provide more than \$150 billion in fair and affordable housing investments, representing the single largest investment in affordable housing in our nation's history. These funds would create nearly 1.4 million affordable and accessible homes, help nearly 300,000 households afford their rent, and address the racial wealth gap through the first-ever national investment in homeownership for first-time, first-generation homebuyers.
 - *Sponsor: Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA).*
- **Healthy Foundations for Homeless Veterans Act** (H.R. 645), **Return to Housing Act** (H.R. 491), and **Critical Health Access Resource and Grant Extensions (CHARGE) Act** (S. 1436) would continue COVID era safeguards. H.R. 645 would give the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) two more years of authority to provide veterans experiencing homelessness with transportation and communication services as well as supplies of food. H.R. 491 would increase the maximum reimbursement rate for Grant and Per Diem (GPD) providers from 115% to 200%; it is feared that failure to enact this legislation will force grantees to reduce their services or their beds, or even close. The bipartisan CHARGE Act also includes a three-year increase in the GPD reimbursement rate to 20%; in addition, the measure would permanently authorize the provision of additional services and supplies. All three bills include vital measures for ending veteran homelessness.
 - *H.R. 645 is sponsored by Rep. Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick (D-FL)*
 - *H.R. 491 is sponsored by Rep. Nikema Williams (D-GA)*
 - *S. 1436 is sponsored by Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT) & Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)*
- **The Homelessness Health Care and Coordination Act** (H.R. 773) would make it easier for local homelessness systems to access behavioral health care services for people experiencing homelessness who have mental health or substance use problems.
 - *Sponsor: Rep. Madeliene Dean (D-PA)*
- **The Returning Home Act** (H.R. 2994) would establish demonstration projects for housing people returning from incarceration which would provide funds for rental assistance, housing stabilization services and financial stipends to families housing family members returning from incarceration.
 - *Sponsor: Rep. Annette Barragan (D-CA)*
- **Strengthening the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness** (S. 735) would permanently authorize the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, which consists of 19 federal agencies that help create and catalyze implementation of the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness.
 - *Sponsors: Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI) and Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME)*

Opportunity Starts at Home (OSAH) Initiatives

The Alliance is a member of OSAH, a long-term, multi-sector campaign to meet the needs of the nation's low-income people. Current OSAH key initiatives include two bills endorsed by the Alliance:

- **Family Stability and Opportunity Vouchers Act** (S. 1257, H.R. 3776) would create 250,000 new housing mobility vouchers to allow families to move to areas with greater opportunity.
 - *Sponsors: Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) & Senator Todd Young (R-IN) and Rep. Joe Neguse (D-CO) & Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA)*
- **The Source of Income Discrimination Act** (S. 1267, H.R. 2846) would prohibit landlords from denying housing to individuals who use Section 8 and HUD-VASH vouchers to pay for rent.
 - *Sponsors: Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA) and Rep. Scott Peters (D-CA)*

New or Anticipated Legislation

There are also two initiatives that the Alliance is following closely, and recommends the following positions.

- **Reauthorization of the SUPPORT Act**, P.L. 115-271, which includes a broad array of programs and reforms specific to the opioid crisis and substance use disorders, should be used to address homelessness related to behavioral health.
- **Work requirements** should not be imposed on federal programs that relate to poverty alleviation. Explicit exemptions from work requirements for people experiencing homelessness can be very problematic to implement. The Fiscal Responsibility Act (P.L. 118-5) created a new exemption from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program's work reporting requirements for people experiencing homelessness. The Alliance is working with interested lawmakers to ensure that the exemption is humanely implemented.