

LEGISLATION ENDORSED BY THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE TO END HOMELESSNESS



Updated: August 6, 2024

The Alliance collaborates with public, private, and nonprofit partners to develop, analyze, and advocate for policy solutions to homelessness on a nonpartisan basis at the federal and state levels. The following is a list of many important bills the Alliance supports:

The Ending Homelessness Act of 2023 (HR 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. This means 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:** Representative Maxine Waters (D-CA-43)

The Housing Crisis Response Act of 2023 (HR 4233) would address our nation's affordable housing crisis, chronic undersupply of housing, and bolster an equitable economy by providing over \$150 billion in critical investments to support public housing, create and preserve affordable and accessible housing, promote equitable community development, and expand homeownership opportunities.

↑ **Sponsor:** Representative Maxine Waters (D-CA-43)

The Housing for All Act of 2023 (S 2701, H.R. 5254) would authorize significant investments in several federal programs: the Housing Trust Fund, Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly, Section 811 Supportive Housing for People with Disabilities, Home Investments Partnerships Program, Housing Choice Voucher Program, Project Based Rental Assistance, the Emergency Solutions Grants program, and the Continuum of Care program. This bill would also authorize safe parking programs and eviction prevention programs, and help local homeless organizations invest in administrative capacity necessary to bill Medicaid for services.

↑ **Sponsors:** Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA) and Representative Ted Lieu (D-CA)

The Decent, Affordable, Safe Housing for All (DASH) Act (S 680, HR 6970) would require the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to (1) provide housing vouchers to households experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness, (2) provide grants for the modular construction of affordable housing, (3) propose a new formula for distribution of Housing Trust Fund amounts, and (4) encourage zoning and community planning methods that promote multi-family housing. The bill also makes certain homeless assistance programs permanent.

↑ **Sponsors:** Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Representative Val Hoyle (D-OR-4)

The Yes In My Back Yard (YIMBY) Act (S 1688, HR 3507) would require certain Community Development Block Grant program recipients to submit information to the Department of Housing and Urban Development regarding their implementation of certain land-use policies, such as policies for expanding high-density single-family and multifamily zoning.

↑ **Sponsors:** Senator Todd Young (R-IN), Senator Brian Schatz (D-HI), and Representative Derek Kilmer (D-WA-6)

The Rural Housing Reform Act (S 2790, HR 6785) aims to improve the housing programs administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Housing Service (RHS) through several reforms, including decoupling rental assistance from maturing mortgages, permanently establishing the Multifamily Housing Preservation and Revitalization Demonstration, making permanent the Native CDFI Relending pilot program, and improving staff training and capacity within RHS.

↑ **Sponsors:** Senator Tina Smith (D-MN) and Representative Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-MO-3)

Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act (H.R. 8371) would increase the reimbursement rate from 115% to 133% for non-profit organizations which provide veterans with short-term transitional housing, with a potential increase of up to 200% under certain circumstances; and restore the Department of Veterans Affairs' authority to provide COVID era services (transportation and telephony) and supplies (food, shelter, clothing, blankets, and hygiene items) to veterans experiencing homelessness.

↑ **Sponsor:** Representative Juan Ciscomani (R-AZ-6)

The SSI Savings Penalty Elimination Act (S 2767, HR 5408) would raise the resource limits used to determine eligibility for Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and the limits would adjust annually for inflation. Raising the resource limit aims to ensure older adults and disabled individuals with low incomes are able to prepare for financial emergencies without putting their SSI benefits at risk, and jeopardizing their ability to meet their basic needs, like housing. An individual's resource limit would increase from \$2,000 to \$10,000 and a couple's resource limit would increase from \$3,000 to \$20,000.

↑ **Sponsors:** Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Representative Danny Davis (D-IL-7)

The Long-Term Care Workforce Support Act (S 4120, HR 7994) Homelessness itself can exacerbate chronic medical conditions. An individual can become chronically homeless when a health condition becomes disabling and stable housing is too difficult to maintain without help. These bipartisan bills would ensure the nation has a strong, qualified pipeline of workers to provide desperately needed care for older adults and people living with disabilities by improving compensation and providing a safe work environment, identifying effective recruitment and retention strategies, and providing a career pathway for people of color and those living with disabilities.

↑ **Sponsors:** Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) and Representative Debbie Dingell (D-MI-6)

The Housing Access Act (S 2932, HR 7647) would direct the Secretaries of Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, and Treasury Departments to jointly provide guidance to state Medicaid agencies and housing providers on connecting Medicaid beneficiaries to housing-related services. This bill would align Medicaid housing-related services with existing federal housing resources to streamline coordination of programs and resources for Medicaid beneficiaries experiencing homelessness.

↑ **Sponsors:** Senator Edward Markey (D-MA) and Representative Nanette Diaz Barragan (D-CA-44)

The Unhoused Persons Bill of Rights (H. Res. 634) would express that the United States is obligated to permanently end the unhoused crisis by 2027. This bill would uphold, protect, and enforce the civil and human rights of unhoused individuals, including the human rights to: housing, universal health care, livable wages, education, employment opportunities, access to public facilities, free movement in public spaces, privacy, confidentiality, internet access, vote, freedom from harassment by law enforcement, private businesses, property owners, and housed residents, and equal rights to health care, legal representation, and social services without discrimination based on housing status.

↑ **Sponsor:** Representative Cori Bush (D-MO-1)

The Family Stability and Opportunity Vouchers Act (S 1257, HR 3776) would create 250,000 new housing mobility vouchers to allow families to move to areas with greater opportunity.

↑ **Sponsors:** Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) & Senator Todd Young (R-IN) and Representative Joe Neguse (D-CO-2) & Representative Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA-1)

Fair Housing Improvement Act (S 1267, HR 2846) would prohibit landlords from denying housing to individuals who use Housing Choice Vouchers (also known as Section 8) and HUD-VASH vouchers to pay for rent.

↑ **Sponsors:** Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA) and Representative Scott Peters (D-CA-50)

The Asylum Seeker Work Authorization Act (S. 255, H.R. 1325) is actually two different bills with the same title which would both reduce the wait time for asylum seekers to apply for work authorization from 180 to 30 days. Reduced wait times would allow asylum seekers to work while their petitions are pending, which would make them less likely to use local homelessness resources. The Senate bill has two significant differences: an asylum seeker must enter through a port of entry, legally, in order to benefit and the authorization lasts for only two years before it needs to be reauthorized.

↑ **Sponsor:** Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) and Representative Chellie Pingree (D-ME)

The Affordable Housing and Homeownership Protection Act (S. 3673) would help communities fight back against institutional investors through the imposition of a tax on the purchase of single-family homes. Institutional investors, which are purchasing single-family homes in significant quantities, are driving up rental prices and thus shrinking the number of affordable rental units. The tax would make this practice less profitable and provide resources for investment in affordable housing.

↑ **Sponsor:** Senator Jack Reed (D-RI)

The End Veteran Homelessness Act (H.R. 8560) would update the highly successful HUD-VASH program, which has played a key role in the over 50% reduction in veteran homelessness since 2010, to increase utilization of otherwise idle vouchers, thus getting even more veterans into permanent housing, while continuing to serve those veterans with acute needs with both housing assistance and wraparound services.

↑ **Sponsor:** Representatives Mark Takano (D-CA), Maxine Waters (D-CA), and Mike Levin (D-CA)

The Housing for All Vets Act (S. 4650) would entitle all eligible low-income veterans with housing vouchers. Provision of vouchers would be phased in over five years, starting with veterans with the greatest need. Program participants would also be protected from source of income discrimination.

↑ **Sponsor:** Senator Tina Smith (D-MN)

The Homes for Young Adults Act (H.R. 8722) would create a new entitlement under the Housing Choice Voucher program, specifically targeted at young people, single or parenting, between the ages of 18-30 as well as those aging out of foster care or other youth-serving systems. Over 4.2 million young people experience homelessness each year, a disproportionate number of whom are people of color, or LGBTQI+ individuals.

↑ **Sponsor:** Representative Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ)