

August 19, 2025

Speaker of the House Mike Johnson
521 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Majority Leader John Thune
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries
2267 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Minority Leader Chuck Schumer
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Minority Leader Jeffries, Majority Leader Thune, and Minority Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the National Alliance to End Homelessness - a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization committed to preventing and ending homelessness for all - I thank you for your leadership during these challenging times. More than ever before, people experiencing homelessness (and those vulnerable to homelessness, and the organizations that serve them), need your continued help, support, and intervention.

I am writing to express our unequivocal opposition and disappointment about the White House's recent directive to forcibly remove people experiencing homelessness from Washington, D.C. This administration's intent to use police and military force against the District's most vulnerable residents will put lives at risk and make it significantly harder for outreach and service workers to provide critical assistance.

In Washington, D.C. and across the nation – in red and blue states alike – the inability of everyday Americans to afford their housing, medical care, groceries, and other basic living expenses results in approximately 19,000 people becoming homeless for the first time each week. Homelessness is not a criminal issue; it is an economic one.

The law enforcement tactics being used in the nation's capital will do nothing to address the actual unmet needs driving the increases in homelessness: the decades-long affordable housing crisis; a threadbare social safety net that leaves people unable to pay their rent; and an insufficient healthcare system that leaves people without access to the services and treatment options that they want and need.

While this current effort is limited to the District, it echoes the policy directive laid out in the recent [Executive Order](#) signed on July 24: the most harmful federal policy proposal on homelessness in recent history. That Order would impose a multitude of ineffective, outdated policies and practices for addressing homelessness which aim to defund and dismantle the foundations of homeless response in the

United States. This represents a major retreat from the federal government's essential role in supporting communities across the nation; if implemented, these actions have devastating impacts in every district and state across the nation.

The Alliance calls on Congress to intervene on behalf of the residents in Washington, D.C. and the millions of Americans across the country who are currently homeless or who are on the verge of homelessness. Urge the White House and the administration to back off of these harmful and ineffective tactics. Instead, they should expand upon the existing federal response to ending homelessness. This strategy is humane and follows the evidence—an approach that has had bipartisan support for decades—and addresses the root economic challenges affecting all Americans.

Other actions that you and your colleagues can take include:

- Enact bipartisan legislation that will protect people experiencing homelessness residing on federal land who have no alternate places to sleep.
- Send oversight requests to the White House, National Guard, National Parks Service, Department of Justice, Secret Service, FBI, and other federal agencies involved in the actions currently underway in the District and request information on costs and resources used on tactics that do not end homelessness.
- Deny requests from the President to extend the federal takeover of the Metropolitan Police Department in the District.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact the Alliance's Marcy Thompson (mthompson@naeh.org), Vice President for Programs and Policy, if you have any questions or concerns on this matter.

Respectfully,



Ann Marie Oliva
Chief Executive Officer
National Alliance to End Homelessness