



NATIONAL LAW CENTER  
ON HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY



**Funders Together**  
HOMELESSNESS ENDS HERE



**Bassuk Center**  
Stable housing, wellness, and opportunity

Dear Candidate:

As national organizations dedicated to preventing and ending homelessness, **we write to request you to address the issue of homelessness and housing among very low-income people as you campaign for the office of the President of the United States.** Homelessness is an issue that has reached a crisis level in this country yet has gotten little attention in the policy discussions among Presidential candidates.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development estimates that 550,000 people are homeless on any given night, while about 1.5 million people experience homelessness over the course of the entire year. Additionally, about 8 million households spend more than half their income on rent and many other households are doubled up with family and friends because they can't afford a place of their own. Every community is impacted by homelessness, which has become a diverse mix of individuals and families, people with disabilities and other health issues, unaccompanied youth, veterans, and many others.

Homelessness has become an epidemic across this country because of massive disinvestments in affordable housing, stagnant wages, rising housing costs, inaccessible health care, unhealthy food, systemic racism, and countless other policy decisions that have yielded poor outcomes. It is a disgrace that our policymakers have allowed people to live and die on the streets of the wealthiest country in the history of the world when clearly we have the resources for a better standard of living for all those in our communities. As a candidate for the highest office, we ask you to explicitly lay out your plans for how you will address this crisis.

**Homelessness:** As we work to fix the current broken system, what will you do in the short-term for the far too many Americans who are currently experiencing homelessness?

**Criminalization:** In a growing number of municipalities across the country it is a crime to sleep in public spaces, sit for longer than a few minutes at a time, or engage in many other life-sustaining activities in public. What will you do to address the increasing criminalization of homelessness?

**Wages:** People experiencing homelessness combat many barriers to finding and maintaining employment and the federal minimum wage is not enough to afford a modest apartment anywhere in the United States. How do you plan to address wages and access to jobs for those who already face many challenges?

**Housing Affordability:** As the gap between housing costs and income levels continues to widen, more people are at risk for experiencing homelessness. How do you plan to address our nation's severe affordable housing crisis, which disproportionately affects those considered extremely low income?

**Health Care:** Outside of insurance coverage, people experiencing homelessness face many barriers to good health which include access to transportation, healthy food, stable housing to recover and heal, and more. What is your plan to ensure that social determinants of health are recognized and embedded within our health care infrastructure?

We welcome an opportunity to discuss these issues further with you or members of your campaign. We believe housing is a human right, and we look forward to partnering with you to combat the homelessness crisis. Please contact Regina Reed at [rreed@nhchc.org](mailto:rreed@nhchc.org) or 443-703-1337 to discuss further.

Signed,

Bassuk Center  
C4 Innovations  
Fundors Together to End Homelessness  
National Alliance to End Homelessness  
National Coalition for the Homeless  
National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty  
National Health Care for the Homeless Council  
The Corporation for Supportive Housing  
Western Regional Advocacy Project