



Tuesday, July 29, 2025

The Honorable Ned Lamont
Governor of the State of Connecticut
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Lamont,

We write on behalf of the CT CAN End Homelessness Campaign, the backbone agency leading a broad coalition of service providers, advocates, state agencies, and community partners, united in our mission to prevent and solve homelessness in Connecticut. We strongly oppose the Executive Order issued by the federal administration on July 24, 2025, which would dismantle decades of progress by promoting the criminalization of homelessness, defund evidence-based practices like Housing First, eliminate harm reduction programs, and expand forced institutionalization.

This Order does not support Connecticut—it undermines our progress. It promotes outdated, ineffective strategies that treat homelessness as a nuisance to be removed, rather than a crisis to be solved. At a time when 5,234 of our neighbors, in every municipality across the state, are experiencing homelessness—including over 500 children and nearly 1,000 people sleeping outside—this approach will have dangerous consequences for all of our communities.

The Executive Order's directives are not just harmful—they are fundamentally detached from reality. Connecticut, like most states, does not have the infrastructure or resources to carry out mass institutionalization or enforcement at the proposed scale. More importantly, we know this approach entirely misses the mark. Homelessness in our state is driven by poverty, systemic inequities, and a severe lack of affordable housing—not by mental illness or addiction alone.

According to Connecticut's 2024 Point-in-Time Count, only 30 percent of individuals surveyed reported living with a serious mental illness, and just 19 percent reported a substance use disorder. These numbers make one thing clear: most people experiencing homelessness are not sick or criminal—they are simply poor. Connecticut has made it clear: homelessness is not a crime. It is a failure of housing, healthcare, and economic systems—and our response must be rooted in housing, not handcuffs.

We are particularly alarmed by the Order's attacks on Housing First—a model our state has invested in and expanded. Housing First is not just about housing people. It's about providing the wraparound services they need to remain housed and move toward stability.

Defunding this approach would destabilize frontline programs and drive homelessness higher.

Even more troubling, the Order promotes surveillance and forced institutionalization, including the collection of personal health data for law enforcement use—a direct violation of privacy and civil rights. It undermines basic protections for people with disabilities and abandons legal precedent and public health standards alike.

This Executive Order is not only morally indefensible—it is fiscally reckless. A locked inpatient bed can cost more in a single day than a full month of supportive housing with services. Redirecting resources from housing to high-cost, high-failure systems like institutions and jails will only deepen this crisis.

We urge you to:

- **Publicly reject this Executive Order** and make clear that Connecticut will not participate in any effort to criminalize or institutionalize people experiencing homelessness.
- **Protect the privacy and civil liberties** of all Connecticut residents by refusing to comply with federal efforts to collect and misuse health data.
- **Sustain and expand investments** in effective, evidence-based solutions including Housing First, harm reduction, flexible housing funding, and Coordinated Access Network infrastructure.
- **Reaffirm Connecticut's leadership** by standing publicly with providers, advocates, and people with lived experience who are solving homelessness every day.

Connecticut has long led the nation in building a coordinated, humane, and results-driven response to homelessness. That leadership must continue—and it must be defended. If we remain silent, we risk losing the very principles that define our state: dignity, equity, and community.

Thank you for your continued leadership. We stand ready to work with your administration to ensure Connecticut remains a national model—not only in policy, but in values.

Sincerely,



Sarah Fox
Chief Executive Officer
Connecticut Coalition to
End Homelessness



Jennifer Paradis
Executive Director
Beth-El Center
Co-Chair
CT CAN End Homelessness
CAN Leadership



Jessica Kubicki
Chief Initiative Officer Housing
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Speaker of the House
Matthew Ritter



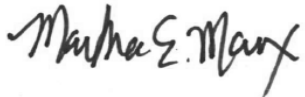
House Majority Leader
Jason Rojas



Representative Kadeem
Roberts
Chair
End Homelessness Caucus



Representative Laurie
Sweet
Chair
End Homelessness Caucus



Senator Martha Marx
Chair
Housing Committee



Representative Antonio
Felipe
Chair
Housing Committee



Senator Saud Anwar
Chair
Public Health Committee



Representative Eleni
Kavros DeGraw
Chair
Planning and Development
Committee



Representative Jillian
Gilchrest
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Human Services Committee