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## FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE DEMOCRATS THE ENDING HOMELESSNESS ACT OF 2019 - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY -

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*This bill is supported by: Center for Supportive Housing, Community Solutions, Council of Large Public Housing Authorities, Drug Policy Alliance, Leading Age, Local Initiatives Support Corporation, National Alliance on Mental Illness, National Alliance to End Homelessness, National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, National Housing Conference, National Housing Law Project, National Housing Trust, National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, National Low Income Housing Coalition, National Rural Housing Coalition, PATH (People Assisting the Homeless), Public Housing Authority Directors Association, Stewards for Affordable Housing for the Future, and TELACU Residential Management.*

Homelessness in many parts of America has reached crisis proportions. The results of the 2018 point-in-time (PIT) count found that there are over 550,000 people experiencing homelessness in this country, including nearly 160,000 children and youth. Our progress towards the national goal to end homelessness has stalled in the absence of new funding. We need a surge of new resources to make further progress.

The Ending Homelessness Act of 2019 provides a comprehensive plan to ensure that every person experiencing homelessness in America has a place to call home. The bill would appropriate \$13.27 billion in mandatory relief funding over 5 years to several critical federal housing programs and initiatives, providing the resources that these programs need to effectively address the homelessness crisis in America. If enacted, this bill is estimated to fund the creation of 410,000 new units of housing for people experiencing homelessness.

The bill takes a holistic approach to ending homelessness, recognizing the special circumstances that often lead to homelessness and the issues commonly facing homeless persons. Accordingly, the bill provides funding for outreach and case management to connect persons experiencing homelessness to needed services, as well as for technical assistance to help states and local jurisdictions better align their healthcare and housing strategies. In order to ensure a strong framework to sustain long term progress, the bill would also permanently authorize the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, which authorizes the main homeless assistance grant programs under HUD's jurisdiction, and permanently authorize the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, which serves a critical role in coordinating the overall federal strategy to end homelessness, establishing benchmarks to track our progress, and updating the goals as necessary.

### ***\$5 billion over five years for McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants***

- Funds an additional 85,000 new permanent supportive housing units, which should effectively eliminate chronic homelessness across America.
- Uses a revised funding formula to ensure that funding is distributed accurately to communities based on need.
- Funds may also be used for any eligible activities under McKinney-Vento, including transitional housing, rapid rehousing, and emergency shelters.

### ***\$2.5 billion over five years for new Special Purpose Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers***

- Funds approximately 300,000 additional housing vouchers and gives preference to people experiencing homelessness or those who are at risk of experiencing homelessness.

***\$5 billion over five years in mandatory annual appropriations for the National Housing Trust Fund***

- Creates 25,000 new rental units that are affordable to extremely low income households, with a priority for housing for people who are experiencing homelessness, in the first five years.

***\$500 million over five years for outreach funding***

- Funds state and local jurisdictions on competitive basis to provide case management and social services for people who are experiencing homelessness, or formerly experienced homelessness.

***\$20 million for states and localities to integrate healthcare and housing initiatives***

- Funds technical assistance for state and local governments to help coordinate their supportive housing and health care initiatives that are funded by federal programs.

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