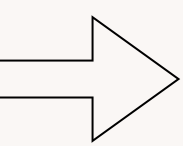


Weekly Newsletter

Supreme Court Ruling Doesn't Tackle Homelessness



The U.S. Supreme Court has recently ruled that law enforcement can arrest citizens for sleeping or camping in public. (Learn more about the ruling here: <https://www.npr.org/2024/06/28/nx-s1-4992010/supreme-court-homeless-punish-sleeping-encampments>.) Cities have seen homeless encampments as a public safety issue; however, others say the law does injustice to our friends on the street. Homelessness is a complex issue and one we have sought to address in our district.



I have been serving our homeless friends in Indianapolis for six years with a group called "Meet Me Under the Bridge." We serve meals to the homeless every Sunday, and I've had the opportunity to talk with many of the people caught in this cycle. Some can't afford both food and rent, some suffer from addiction, and some struggle with mental illness. No matter what their situation, we serve and love the people where they are. Unfortunately, our city's homeless need more than our compassion. They need someone to act on their behalf.



Those addicted to drugs or alcohol make up a large part of the homeless population. Another group consists of those suffering from mental illness who don't fit into the programs we have available or who simply refuse care. To help either of these groups, our investment into programs should be focused on treatment methods that have proven track records.

Another group of homeless people are those with low incomes who have simply been priced out of renting in today's inflationary environment.

Around half of the folks we serve on Sundays are in this category. For these people, providing truly affordable housing is our best course of action. Arresting people who have nowhere to sleep is not a strategy that leads to a solution. Instead, we have an opportunity to put pressure on lawmakers to provide affordable housing and shelters.

In our district, for example, many houses that could potentially provide low-cost housing sit vacant because of newer building codes that add substantial costs to rehab projects. High permitting costs and long delays for approval further drive up costs. I have a proposal that will streamline the process and address the abandoned property issue.



Lastly, federal rules for funding programs need to be revisited. Many programs are encumbered by top-heavy administrative departments while the funds that trickle down to those doing the actual work are insufficient. In Congress, I will take a hard look at the way funding is administered and how we can better help those with boots on the ground accomplish their goals.

Together, we can do more to tackle homelessness and other issues close to the hearts of Hoosiers. You can help by voting for me and others who are looking for real solutions on Nov. 5.

REACH OUT
FOR A CHAT

Let's chat!

LET'S DO
SOMETHING-
TOGETHER

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