Reducing Street Homelessness

LEAVING HOMELESS PEOPLE ON THE STREETS IS NOT COMPASSIONATE

Cities allowing street camping attracts more homeless individuals and takes away tools to encourage needed treatment.

Five homeless people die in LA street camps every day, a death rate higher than for U.S. soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Neighborhoods next to street camps have higher levels of armed robbery, rape, and aggravated assault.

75% of the unsheltered homeless have a drug or alcohol addiction.

Eight in 10 voters want the legislature to ban street camping.

INCENTIVES MATTER

As California’s failures show, allowing street camping and providing rent-free permanent supportive housing with no required treatment or services will only increase homelessness.

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States can take action to help end street homelessness

1. **Stop funding failed local policies**
   Cities that see rising unsheltered homelessness and allow street camping should lose state funding.

2. **Redirect state homeless grants to encourage success**
   Reward nonprofits for reducing the number of days the homeless spend on the streets, incarcerated, and hospitalized.

3. **Allow state public safety grants to be used for homeless outreach teams**
   Houston did this in 2011, and the city cut homelessness in half.

4. **Reform state outpatient treatment programs and inpatient admittance criteria**
   78% of the unsheltered homeless have a severe mental illness.

5. **Clean up camps on state land and provide superior shelter alternatives**
   Structured camping facilities with law enforcement, sanitation, and services are affordable and provide safer options.

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