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## H.R. 1 Ends Housing Assistance Option for Nation's Homeless Veterans

**H.R. 1, the Republican spending plan for FY 2011, targets homeless veterans by eliminating funding for new HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers.** HUD-VASH vouchers are funded as a subset of the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Section 8 program with services provided through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). It is specifically designed to help homeless veterans secure safe and permanent housing, especially the chronically homeless. HUD-VASH is the nation's largest permanent supportive housing program for veterans. It has also been an important tool for serving female veterans, and those with families. Under the program, the VA determines veteran eligibility and then refers veterans to a local public housing authority for a HUD voucher. In addition to the housing voucher component, the VA provides supportive case management services to each voucher recipient, including assistance negotiating leases with landlords, help securing counseling, and assistance finding job training and education programs.

**The Senate Democratic alternative fully funds 10,000 new HUD-VASH vouchers, keeping the nation on the path towards fulfilling the President's mission to end veteran and chronic homelessness by 2015.** Since FY 2008, HUD-VASH has been level funded each year at \$75 million. Over the last three years, nearly 30,000 vouchers have been awarded to homeless veterans and Senate Democrats aim to bring the total up to 40,000 vouchers awarded by the end of FY 2011. However, HUD-VASH is now in jeopardy because Republicans zeroed out funding for new vouchers in H.R. 1. HUD-VASH is a key component to ending homelessness among veterans in the next four years. Eliminating funding for this vital lifeline prevents thousands of veterans who bravely served our nation and protected our freedoms from the opportunity to access the support they need and rebuild their lives.

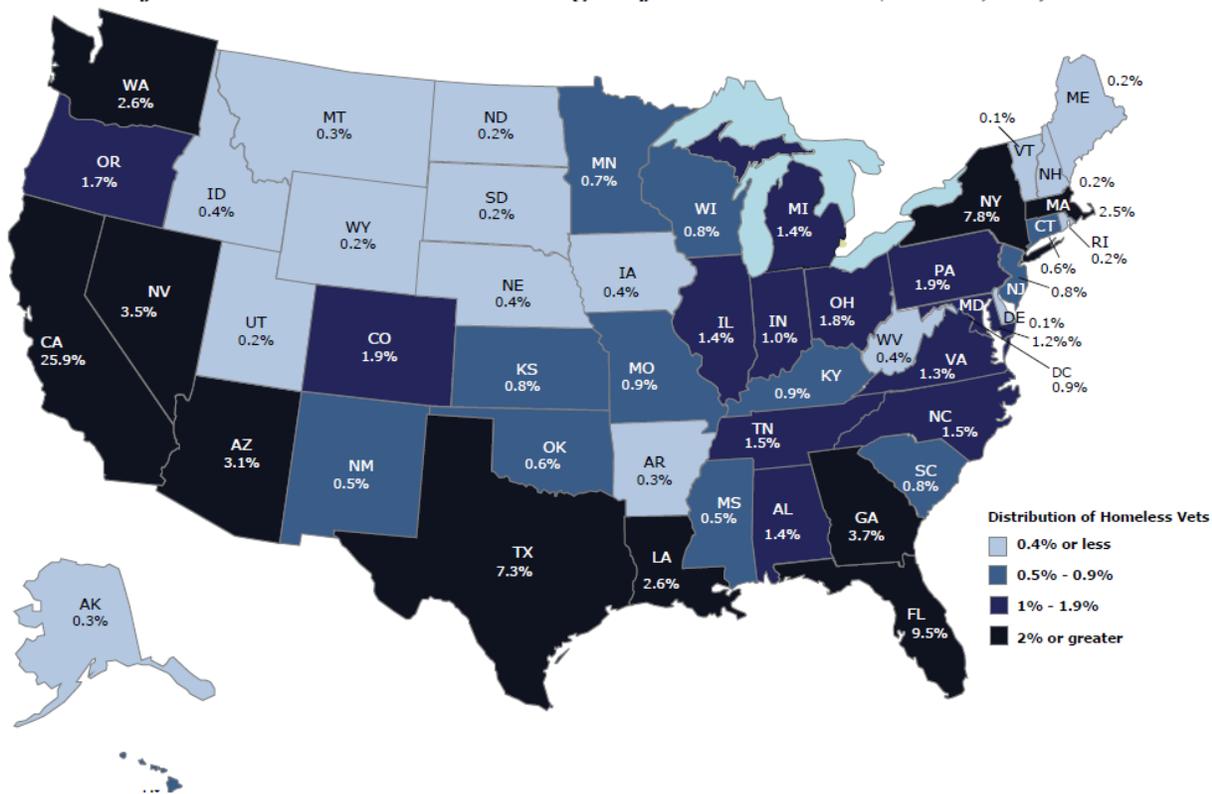
**Veterans are overrepresented in the homeless population.** For the first time ever, HUD and VA recently published an authoritative analysis of the extent and nature of homelessness among veterans. Although veterans comprise roughly 8% of the total U.S. population, they accounted for approximately 12% of all homeless persons counted nationwide during a 2009 point-in-time snapshot.

**On a given night in 2009, nearly 76,000 veterans were homeless while approximately 136,000 veterans spent at least one night in a shelter during that year.** According to the HUD-VA study, “During a 12 month period in 2009, an estimated 136,000 veterans – or about 1 in every 168 veterans – spent at least one night in an emergency shelter or transitional housing program.” Furthermore, “Low-income veterans are twice as likely to become homeless compared to all low-income adults.” [Veterans' Supplement to HUD's 2009 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR), released [2/11](#).]

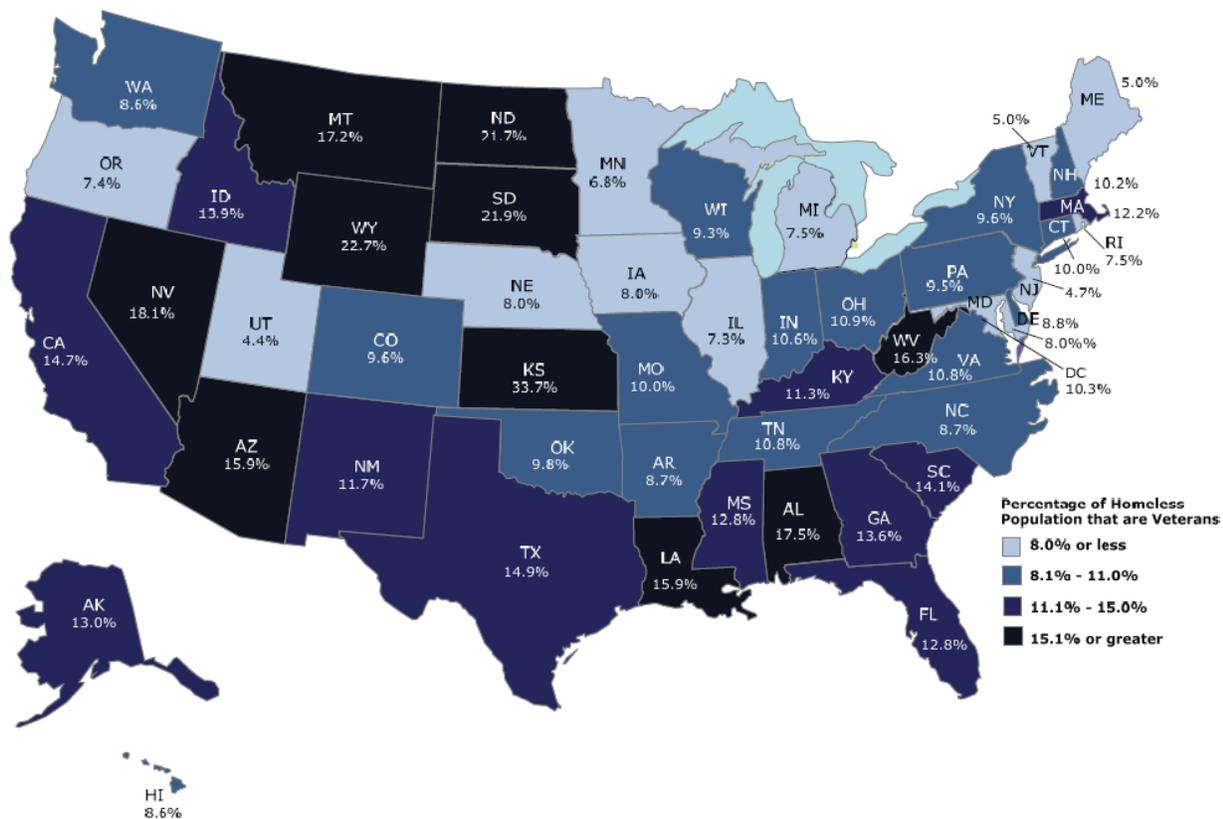
**Lauded by Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki as “By far, the most effective option for housing Veterans,” the HUD-VASH program has a proven track record of transitioning homeless veterans into stable, permanent housing.** Information compiled since the beginning of FY 2008 shows that veterans who received HUD-VASH vouchers had a lower risk of returning to homelessness than those who did not participate in the voucher program and instead only received intensive case management or standard VA assistance. The evaluation also shows that over the long-term, HUD-VASH recipients had both improved housing and improved substance abuse outcomes when compared to veterans who did not participate in the program. Studies have shown that providing people experiencing chronic homelessness with permanent supportive housing actually saves taxpayers money. [U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness “Opening Doors” Announcement, [6/22/10](#); CRS Report RL34024, [11/4/10](#); [National Alliance to End Homelessness](#).]

**In the last three years, HUD-VASH has helped nearly 30,000 veterans by providing vouchers and assistance to help them get back on their feet and Senate Democrats are committed to continuing and fully funding this effective and successful initiative.** Without HUD-VASH vouchers, thousands of our nation's veterans will have one fewer tool to help them get off the streets and successfully rebuild their lives. Everyone deserves safe and stable housing, and HUD-VASH vouchers provide our nation's brave veterans with the opportunity to once again become self sufficient members of their community.

*Distribution of Homeless Veterans on the Night of the PIT Count (N = 75,609)*



*Share of the PIT Count of Homeless Persons that are Veterans*



**Appendix D: PIT Estimates of Veteran Homelessness by State, 2009**

<b>Appendix D: Point-in-Time Estimates of Homelessness and Total State Populations by State, 2009</b>				
<b>State</b>	<b>PIT Estimate of Veteran Homelessness</b>	<b>PIT Estimate of All Homeless People</b>	<b>Estimated Veteran Population</b>	<b>State Population</b>
Alabama	1,063	6,080	405,480	4,625,354
Alaska	259	1,992	74,564	681,235
Arizona	2,343	14,721	557,881	6,343,952
Arkansas	249	2,853	248,440	2,830,047
California	19,532	133,129	2,087,582	36,418,499
Colorado	1,471	15,268	413,985	4,844,568
Connecticut	462	4,605	247,586	3,493,006
Delaware	100	1,130	35,634	861,804
District of Columbia	642	6,228	78,062	588,373
Florida	7,135	55,599	1,701,811	18,182,321
Georgia	2,760	20,360	714,958	9,509,254
Hawaii	499	5,782	116,885	1,280,273
Idaho	270	1,939	131,770	1,493,713
Illinois	1,028	14,055	811,941	12,829,014
Indiana	740	6,984	490,987	6,335,595
Iowa	270	3,380	246,243	2,984,391
Kansas	638	1,892	231,099	2,778,599
Kentucky	675	5,999	335,618	4,234,999
Louisiana	1,985	12,504	313,600	4,342,582
Maine	123	2,444	139,163	1,315,069
Maryland	932	11,698	460,006	5,618,250
Massachusetts	1,890	15,482	440,643	6,469,770
Michigan	1,054	14,005	749,308	10,045,697
Minnesota	525	7,718	403,943	5,181,962
Mississippi	358	2,797	209,945	2,918,790
Missouri	699	6,959	517,843	5,874,327
Montana	206	1,196	100,524	956,496
Nebraska	298	3,718	146,020	1,770,896
Nevada	2,619	14,478	233,324	2,546,235
New Hampshire	167	1,645	124,118	1,312,298
New Jersey	618	13,169	503,969	8,658,668
New Mexico	408	3,475	174,384	1,962,226
New York	5,879	61,067	1,060,660	19,428,881

## Appendix D: Point-in-Time Estimates of Homelessness and Total State Populations by State, 2009

State	PIT Estimate of Veteran Homelessness	PIT Estimate of All Homeless People	Estimated Veteran Population	State Population
North Carolina	1,118	12,918	742,348	9,036,449
North Dakota	168	773	54,203	638,613
Ohio	1,390	12,700	946,707	11,473,983
Oklahoma	475	4,838	328,809	3,606,200
Oregon	1,277	17,309	345,716	3,735,524
Pennsylvania	1,440	15,096	1,045,306	12,418,756
Rhode Island	120	1,607	80,668	1,054,306
South Carolina	629	4,473	395,860	4,403,175
South Dakota	160	731	73,224	795,757
Tennessee	1,142	10,532	506,750	6,144,104
Texas	5,491	36,761	1,634,329	23,845,989
Utah	166	3,795	153,936	2,663,500
Vermont	61	1,214	56,373	620,738
Virginia	960	8,852	746,748	7,698,738
Washington	1,963	22,782	616,471	6,453,083
West Virginia	271	1,667	171,112	1,810,358
Wisconsin	608	6,525	448,802	5,598,453
Wyoming	117	515	51,446	522,833
<b>Total</b>	<b>75,458<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>637,439</b>	<b>22,906,784</b>	<b>301,237,703</b>

<sup>1</sup> There were an additional 151 homeless veterans estimated for Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, for a total of 75,609. The PIT estimates were adjusted statistically to account for four types of missing data. First, there were 5,836 beds for homeless veterans that were missing from HUD's national inventory of homeless residential service providers and thus presumably excluded from the PIT count of sheltered veterans. Second, approximately two-thirds of CoCs used an HMIS to generate their estimates of sheltered homeless veterans, and about 5.4 percent of HMIS records were missing information on veteran status. Third, three CoCs in 2009 did not report data on the number of sheltered veterans. Finally, 19 percent of CoCs had missing information for the number of unsheltered veterans and 16 percent reported zero unsheltered veterans.

## HUD-VASH Voucher Distribution by State from FY 2008 - FY 2010

State	Unit Awards in FY 2008	Unit Awards in FY 2009	Unit Awards in FY 2010	Total Unit Awards
Alaska	35	35	25	95
Alabama	175	140	125	440
Arkansas	140	20	25	185
Arizona	210	210	250	670
California	1295	1610	1650	4555
Colorado	210	280	200	690
Connecticut	70	105	140	315
Delaware	35	0	25	60
Florida	665	910	805	2380
Georgia	420	280	50	750
Hawaii	70	35	0	105
Iowa	70	70	60	200
Idaho	20	20	50	90
Illinois	210	245	125	580
Indiana	105	140	100	345
Kansas	175	70	65	310
Kentucky	105	175	25	305
Louisiana	210	105	105	420
Massachusetts	245	350	275	870
Maryland	175	105	125	405
Maine	35	35	25	95
Michigan	245	280	130	655
Minnesota	70	105	75	250
Missouri	140	105	100	345
Mississippi	35	70	75	180
Montana	35	35	25	95
North Carolina	105	280	150	535
North Dakota	35	35	25	95
Nebraska	70	35	40	145
New Hampshire	35	35	15	85
New Jersey	70	280	150	500
New Mexico	35	105	50	190
Nevada	175	210	200	585
New York	1295	735	475	2505
Ohio	280	245	125	650

<b>Oklahoma</b>	70	35	50	<b>155</b>
<b>Oregon</b>	140	175	235	<b>550</b>
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	455	350	190	<b>995</b>
<b>Rhode Island</b>	35	35	25	<b>95</b>
<b>South Carolina</b>	140	105	50	<b>295</b>
<b>South Dakota</b>	105	35	15	<b>155</b>
<b>Tennessee</b>	245	195	165	<b>605</b>
<b>Texas</b>	700	805	375	<b>1880</b>
<b>Utah</b>	35	70	50	<b>155</b>
<b>Virginia</b>	210	140	100	<b>450</b>
<b>Vermont</b>	20	35	15	<b>70</b>
<b>Washington</b>	245	420	270	<b>935</b>
<b>Wisconsin</b>	105	105	75	<b>285</b>
<b>West Virginia</b>	105	70	20	<b>195</b>
<b>Wyoming</b>	70	0	0	<b>70</b>
<b>Total for all 50 states</b>	<b>9,980</b>	<b>10,070</b>	<b>7520</b>	<b>27,570</b>
<b>Total distributed including DC, Guam and Puerto Rico</b>	<b>10,150</b>	<b>10,290</b>	<b>7705</b>	<b>28,145</b>