

**ADVANCING
HOMELESSNESS
SOLUTIONS**
NATIONAL LOW INCOME HOUSING COALITION
NATIONAL ALLIANCE TO END HOMELESSNESS
CENTER ON BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES

The Supreme Court & the Criminalization of Homelessness

April 9, 2024

Agenda



- **Welcome** – Steve Berg, The Alliance
- **About *Grants Pass v. Johnson*** – Jesse Rabinowitz, National Homelessness Law Center (NHLC)
- **Panel Discussion and Q&A**
 - Marisol Bello, Housing Narrative Lab
 - Jesse Rabinowitz, NHLC
 - Brooke Schipporeit, NLIHC
 - Donald Whitehead, National Coalition for the Homeless
- **Closing Remarks** – Steve Berg, The Alliance

Welcome & Opening Remarks



Steve Berg

Chief Policy Officer

National Alliance to End Homelessness

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Human Impact Video



About *Grants Pass v. Johnson*



Jesse Rabinowitz

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JOHNSON V. GRANTS PASS



HOUSING
NOT HANDCUFFS

Criminalization is on the Rise



72%

of US cities have at least one law prohibiting public camping



60%

of surveyed cities have one or more laws restricting living in vehicles



103%



increase in city laws prohibiting loitering, loafing, & vagrancy since 2006



50%



increase in city laws prohibiting sleeping in public since 2006

HOUSING NOT HANDCUFFS 2019

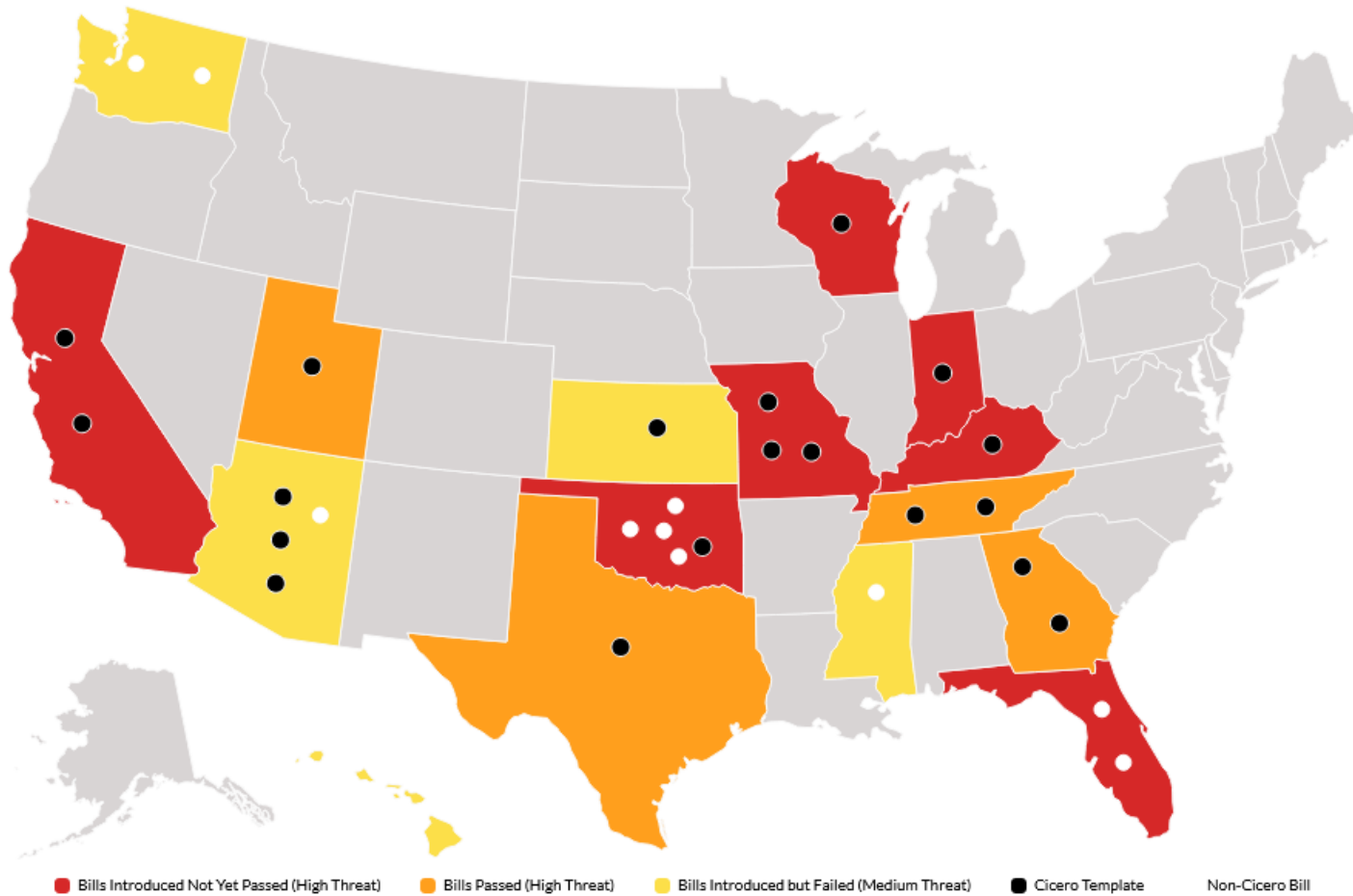
Ending the Criminalization of Homelessness in U.S. Cities

December 2019

NATIONAL LAW CENTER
ON HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY



Broader Threats: State-level Criminalization



Johnson v. Grants Pass Overview

TL/DR:

- Case is about whether cities can punish unhoused people for covering themselves with a blanket, *even in the absence of shelter.*



Where and why?

Where:

- Grants Pass, OR
- City of 40,000,
- Thousands of units short of affordable housing
- No shelters
- 600 counted homeless

Why:

- "the point is to make it uncomfortable enough for them in our city so [homeless individuals] will want to move on down the road."

No, Camping Bans Do Not Work

Do Criminalization Policies Impact Local Homelessness?
Exploring the Limits and Concerns of Socially
Constructed Deviancy

32 Pages • Posted: 18 Feb 2024

[Hannah Lebovits](#)

The University of Texas at Arlington

[Andrew Sullivan](#)

University of Central Florida

Date Written: February 4, 2024

“Unsheltered homelessness does not change after or as a result of adoption. On average, there is a 2.2% increase in unsheltered homelessness”

How to get involved

- Join us in DC on April 22nd
- Spread the word about this case
- Support our video project
- Join the Housing not Handcuffs Campaign

The Supreme Court & the Criminalization of Homelessness



Panel Discussion

Closing Remarks



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Resources

- Learn more about the case: <https://johnsonvgrantspass.com/>
- [How You Can Help](#)
- [Social Media Toolkit](#)
- [Week of Action Advocacy Toolkit](#)
- [Housing Narrative Lab: Messaging Guidance](#)
- [Housing Narrative Lab: Housing GIFs](#)
- [NCH Local Action Organizing Skill Share](#)

