



## H.R. 2994, the Returning Home Act

**Problem:** In the United States, there are nearly 2 million people in our nation's prisons and jails and almost 80 million Americans with a conviction or an arrest history. Following their release, individuals with a conviction history experience obstacles to stable housing that render them at risk of homelessness. These obstacles include a lack of financial resources, weak social bonds resulting from incarceration, and discrimination in the housing market. Without stable and safe housing, those with a conviction history face challenges in creating a life outside of prison and risk returning to incarceration. For instance, individuals experiencing homelessness are 11 times more likely to be arrested than people with stable housing, essentially creating a cycle of homelessness and incarceration. To break this cycle, organizations must have adequate resources to create solutions to house this vulnerable population.

**Solution:** H.R. 2994, the Returning Home Act, establishes a grant program for public entities and community organizations to establish demonstration projects that provide housing services for those with a conviction history.

### The Returning Home Act Provisions:

- Authorizes \$100 million each fiscal year under the Adult and Juvenile Offender State and Local Reentry Demonstration Projects of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act, specifically for housing assistance and services.
- Allows up to 24 months of rental assistance to pay for housing costs and prioritizes federal assistance to applicants that implement a housing-first approach.
- Authorizes funds for supportive services, including pre-release planning, housing placement support, and housing stabilization support.
- Allows applicants to provide stipends to families that house family members with a conviction history and establish financial incentives for landlords.
- Requires that an applicant use no less than 60 percent on rental assistance and no more than 25 percent on financial incentives to landlords.

**Endorsing Organizations:** The Formerly Incarcerated, Convicted People & Families Movement (FICPFM), Fortune Society, Homeless Outreach Program Integrated Care System (HOPICS), Justice4Housing, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), Los Angeles Regional Reentry Partnership (LARRP), Operation Restoration, National Alliance to End Homelessness, National Disability Rights Network, National Homelessness Law Center, National Housing Law Project, The Reentry Working Group, Second Chance Center, Shriver Center on Poverty Law, Vera Institute of Justice, and Voice Of The Experienced.