Instructions:

1. Find your elected official's contact information based on your address: https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials
2. Copy and paste the text below and send via email or hard copy letter, or contact your elected officials by phone and use it as a script.
3. Enter your representative's name in the salutation.
4. Enter your name in the signature.
5. Enter the district or state represented by the elected official in the first paragraph.
6. Optional: You may tailor the letter with your own personal messaging as you prefer.

Dear (INSERT REPRESENTATIVE'S NAME HERE)

I am writing to urge you to address the critical issue of ending homelessness in our (WARD/MUNICIPALITY/CITY/STATE). Since the COVID-19 pandemic, homelessness has continued to increase nationwide. In the wake of the recent *Johnson v. City of Grants Pass* U.S. Supreme Court ruling, which effectively enables municipalities to arrest and ticket individuals for sleeping on public property, our government needs to do more to humanely and effectively address the root causes of homelessness.

As our elected official, you are in the position to best advocate for all of us. Many studies have found that the primary cause of homelessness is the lack of affordable housing. A systematic review of the research conducted by Aubry and colleagues in 2020 found that income interventions and permanent supportive housing increased housing stability for individuals experiencing homelessness. I am asking you to support evidence-based initiatives to end homelessness such as creating affordable and permanent supportive housing in our community, as well as expanding housing vouchers.

I also ask that you reject legislation that criminalizes homelessness and imposes steep penalties such as ticketing, fining, or arresting individuals who sleep on public property. Such punishments do not help reduce homelessness and actually prolong periods of homelessness.

The *Grants Pass* Supreme Court decision provides an opportunity to reimagine how we treat homelessness in our society. Please let me know how you will support policies that provide real solutions to humanely ending homelessness in our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration and for taking action to meet the needs of our unhoused community members.

INSERT NAME HERE