

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 3, 2025

The Honorable Russell Vought  
Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
725 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20503

We write to urge you to maintain existing operations at the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH or the Council) and affirm that USICH is already operating at the basic statutory and administrative level directed under the President's March 14<sup>th</sup> Executive Order.


Congress created USICH under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, which was signed into law by President Ronald Reagan in 1987 and revamped the governmental response to homelessness. Since its inception, USICH has worked with its now-twenty member federal agencies to reduce programmatic duplication, recommend improvements, and maximize effective use of homeless assistance resources across the federal government with its state and local partners. These functions, as well as its annual plan to end homelessness, are explicitly required by Congress under 42 U.S. Code § 11313, which says "the Council shall" execute these duties.

In addition to operating firmly within its statutorily required duties, USICH functions with minimal staff and budget. The bulk of the Council's current policy and implementation staff positions are required, by name, under the law, with the remaining staff providing administrative and finance support. Indeed, USICH's work is extremely cost effective. In the decade after USICH's first National Strategic Plan to End Homelessness was released, and before the COVID-19 pandemic sharply increased housing costs, homelessness fell by nearly 10% nationwide, with veteran homelessness falling 50%.

USICH is also statutorily required to monitor federal programs for instances of abuse. Eliminating or functionally closing the Council would make public dollars more susceptible to misuse, which would be inconsistent with the Trump Administration's stated goal to cut fraud, waste, and abuse.


Despite the President's March 14<sup>th</sup> Executive Order, USICH is already operating at its minimum statutory and administrative level. Reducing or closing the Council would contradict federal law, make homeless assistance policy less effective, and put public dollars at greater risk of misuse. To that end, we request you confirm that USICH is operating firmly within its statute and maintain its current operations. We ask that you respond by April 10, 2025.

Sincerely,



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Jack Reed  
United States Senator



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Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator