

# Memo

## **Collin County Homeless Coalition (CCHC)**

To: Members  
From: Richard Grady  
CC: CCHC Board of Directors  
Date: February 3, 2022  
Re: Legislative Update

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Comments: Since our last meeting I changed this report. I turned it into landscape so that I could add another column. I felt each bill needed just a touch of commentary. Thus, the following legislation was introduced, exhibited traction or stalled in the US Congress that may have certain ramifications on services to homeless and near homeless individuals either positively or negatively.

Bill Number	Date	Author	Summary	Commentary
<b>HB5688</b>	Dec. 2, 2021	Warren Davidson (R) – OH	First introduced on Oct. 22, 2021, this bill is designed to establish the People-Centered Assistance Reform Effort (People-CARE) Commission, to improve the social safety net and increase social mobility by increasing access to resources which address the underlying causes of poverty.	Recommendation: Watch One sponsor. The bill establishes a paid, eight-member commission that would create a means-tested system within numerous, current social programs. The commission would then evaluate programs for changes, consolidation, repurposing, cost reductions, outsourcing or elimination, and publish to Congress a report of those findings. The bill identifies the targets as any Federal program that is designed to specifically provide assistance or benefits exclusively to low-income Americans and includes programs targeted to low-income communities or populations. It specifies numerous programs under specific subheadings including general assistance, medical, food, housing, utilities, education, training, services, childcare and development, and community development.

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Bill Number	Date	Author	Summary	Commentary
<b>HB5783</b>	Dec. 7, 2021	Tracey Mann (R) – KS	First introduced on Oct. 28, 2021 this bill is designed to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve homeless veterans reintegration programs.	Companion bill to <a href="#">SB3094</a> . Recommendation: Favorable Two sponsors. Requires the Department of Labor (DoL) to expand fundable employment and training grants to entities in all states and in states where no entity has applied perform outreach to ensure entities are aware of the grants. Further it requires any denied grant to be reviewed by the DoL.
<b>HB6268</b>	Dec. 14, 2021	Robin Kelly (D) – IL	Introduced on Dec. 14, 2021 To establish an Interagency Task Force to examine the conditions and experiences of Black women and girls in education, economic development, healthcare, labor and employment, housing, justice and civil rights, to promote community-based methods for mitigating and addressing harm and ensuring accountability, and to study societal effects on Black women and girls.	Recommendation: Watch Four sponsors Referred to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Education and Labor, Energy and Commerce, and Financial Services The task force would be established under the Department of Health and Human Services, exist for a minimum of four years, examine numerous programs in various agencies, especially those areas on education, economic development, healthcare, civil rights, and housing. Two years into its existence it will submit a findings report to Congress.

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<b>HB6287</b>	Dec. 14, 2021	Rebecca Sherrill (D) – NJ (Cosponsor: Van Taylor (R) – TX)	Introduced on Dec. 14, 2021 To amend the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to meet the needs of homeless children, youth, and families, and honor the assessments and priorities of local communities.	Recommendation: Favorable Twelve sponsors Requires that HUD include homeless children, youth and families in any issued rules or guidance. It also requires that the certain HMIS data be publicly available on HUDs internet website. It requires that programs housing children ensure the children are enrolled and attend school and receive other educational support and block grant funding. It requires that individuals who are most in need of assistance receive it in a timely manner. Finally the bill centers on the desire to significantly reduce homelessness and achieve prevention.
<b>HB6307</b>	Dec. 16, 2021	Derek Kilmer (D) – WA	First introduced Dec. 16, 2021 To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a pilot program to build tiny homes for homeless veterans.	Recommendation: Favorable Seven sponsors This is a four-year pilot program of five villages across the U.S. built by veterans, learning construction skills in the process under the guidance of a non-profit organization. The non-profit will also provide counseling and case management services. Each home would range from 240 square feet to 340 square feet.

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<b>HB6311</b>	Dec. 16, 2021	Carolyn Maloney (D) – NY	First introduced Dec. 16, 2021 A bill to provide emergency and financial assistance to States, territories, Tribal nations, and local areas affected by substance use disorder, including the use of opioids and stimulants, and to provide for the development, organization, coordination, and operation of more effective and cost efficient systems for the delivery of essential services to individuals with substance use disorder and their families.	Companion bill to <a href="#">SB3418</a> Recommendation: Watch 106 sponsors The bill calculates the need based on deaths and nonfatal overdoses during a three-year period in cities or counties. The 168 page bill is a highly detailed granting process to equally highly de-tailed qualifications for recipient organizations.
<b>HB6411</b>	Feb. 2, 2022	Mark Takano (D-CA)	Introduced on Jan. 18, 2022 To amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the mental health care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs	Recommendation: Watch Ten sponsors Reported out of Subcommittee on Health. The bill has several provisions. It asks for more outreach for mental health and suicide prevention, expansion of the Vet Center workforce, expansion of mental health training, expansion of scholarships and loan repayments for mental health providers, increase in the Veterans Crisis Line, research and pilot programs for improvements to the Veterans Crisis Line, expansion in outreach programs such as Solid Start, Buddy Check and Justice, and expanded research in sleep disorders, mental health, substance use, treatment, suicide and brain health. Adds \$33 million to the VA budget.

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<b>HB6426</b>	Jan. 19, 2022	Lance Gooden (R-TX)	Introduced on Jan. 19, 2022 To increase accountability, transparency, and local control of governing boards under the Continuum of Care program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development	Recommendation: Watch One sponsor Amends the governing board of a continuum of care to include the mayor or CEO of a local government and one member of the local law enforcement, requires best practice guidance for scoring and awarding grants and avoiding conflicts of interest, and submit to HUD the scoring criteria. The Inspector General of HUD will examine all CoCs for violations during the preceding 36 months.
<b>HB6437</b>	Jan. 20, 2022	Jamaal Bowman (D-NY)	First introduced on Jan. 20, 2022 To amend the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 to increase the availability of heating and cooling assistance	Recommendation: Watch 22 sponsors The bill notes that only 16 percent of income-eligible households received funding under the current program. It request \$40 billion per year for the next ten years. It suggests that federal agencies appropriate funding be used to prevent energy shutoffs to needing families, ensure access to heating a cooling, increase outreach, expanding eligibility and actively weatherize low and moderate income housing.

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<b>HB6453</b>	Jan. 20, 2022	Ted Lieu (D-CA)	First introduced on Jan 20, 2022 To establish a Housing Stabilization Fund to provide emergency housing assistance to extremely low-income renters and homeowners	Recommendation: Watch One sponsor The fund established by this bill would be used to make annual grants for short term emergency housing assistance to extremely low income families as carried out by a continuum of care (CoC). The allocations for the fund would come from appropriation acts in the amount of \$100 million.
<b>HB6602</b>	Feb. 4, 2022	Pete Aguilar (D-CA), Support by Marc Veasey (D-TX)	First introduced on Feb. 4, 2022 To authorize funding of enriched resident services in federally assisted affordable housing	Recommendation: Watch Sixteen sponsors Referred to the Committees on Financial Services, and Education and Labor, and Ways and Means This bill mandates HUD to award annual five-year competitive grants to owners of qualified low-income properties to assist in delivering health and community services, after-school programs, substance abuse programs, employment, financial literacy, home ownership and assisted living. HUD will fund the program by transferring \$300 million from the Social Services and Community Services Block Grant programs.

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<b>HB6666</b>	Feb. 9, 2022	Katherine Clark (D-MA)	First introduced on Feb. 9, 2022 To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve the financial aid process for homeless and foster care youth.	Recommendation: Watch Two sponsors Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor.
<b>HB6669</b>	Feb. 9, 2022	Danny Davis (D-IL)	First introduced on Feb. 9, 2022 To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide formula grants to States to improve higher education opportunities for foster youth and homeless youth	Recommendation: Watch Two Sponsors Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor
<b>HB6677</b>	Feb. 9, 2022	Sara Jacobs (D-CA)	First introduced on Feb. 9, 2022 To amend the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012 to modify the eligibility requirements for entities collaborating with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide case management services to homeless veterans under the Veterans Affairs supported housing program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.	Recommendation: Watch Two sponsors Referred to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs, and Financial Services.

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<b>SB2471</b>	Dec. 15, 2021	Brian Schatz (D) – HI	First introduced on Jul. 16, 2021, a hearing was held in the Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs to establish a community disaster assistance fund for housing and community development and to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to provide, from the fund, assistance through a community development block grant disaster recovery program.	Companion bill to HB4707 Recommendation: Watch Eight sponsors The bill suggests that, after a disaster, Housing and Urban Development should lead the response to repair and replace housing stock, and coordinate with FEMA and the SBA to respond to recovery programs. The bill would also establish a long-term disaster fund to support the efforts, including CDBG funding. The desired outcome is faster recovery and prevention of fraud, waste and abuse.
<b>SB3094</b>	Dec. 15, 2021	Jerry Moran (R) – KS	First introduced in Oct. 27, 2021 it was reported favorably out of the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs without amendments to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve homeless veterans reintegration programs.	Companion bill to <a href="#">HB5783</a> . Recommendation: Favorable Nine sponsors. Requires the Department of Labor (DoL) to expand fundable employment and training grants to entities in all states and in states where no entity has applied perform outreach to ensure entities are aware of the grants. Further it requires any denied grant to be reviewed by the DoL.

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<b>SB3293</b>	Dec. 15, 2021	Jon Tester (D) – MT	First introduced in Dec. 1, 2021 it was reported favorably out of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs without amendments to expand access of veterans to mental health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs.	Recommendation: Watch Seven sponsors The bill will analyze sleep disorder care, mental health and substance use, suicide and prevention, and brain health. Additionally it will expand treatment, educational resources and at-home care. Funding is limited to \$5 million allocated for sleep disorder studies, add 100 FTEs to mental health veteran centers, 500 trainees in mental health disciplines, \$8 million for student loan debt reduction, \$10 million for suicide prevention, and \$5 million for brain research.
<b>SB3350</b>	Dec. 9, 2021	Jacky Rosen (D) – NV	Introduced on Dec. 9, 2021. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require an institution of higher education's receipt of Federal assistance on waiving the application for enrollment fee for homeless children and youths and students who were in foster care at any time when the students were 13 years of age or older.	Recommendation: Watch Two sponsors. Referred to Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

Bill Number	Date	Author	Summary	Commentary
<b>SB3418</b>	Dec. 16, 2021	Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)	First introduced Dec. 16, 2021 A bill to provide emergency and financial assistance to States, territories, Tribal nations, and local areas affected by substance use disorder, including the use of opioids and stimulants, and to provide for the development, organization, coordination, and operation of more effective and cost efficient systems for the delivery of essential services to individuals with substance use disorder and their families.	Companion bill to <a href="#">HB6311</a> Recommendation: Watch Sixteen sponsors The bill calculates the need based on deaths and nonfatal overdoses during a three-year period in cities or counties. The 167 page bill is a highly detailed granting process to equally highly detailed qualifications for recipient organizations.
<b>SB3605</b>	Feb. 9, 2022	Robert Casey (D-PA)	First introduced on Feb. 9, 2022 A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide formula grants to States to improve higher education opportunities for foster youth and homeless youth.	Recommendation: Watch Three sponsors Referred to Health, Education, labor and Pensions Committee
<b>SB3616</b>	Feb. 9, 2022	Patty Murray (D-WA)	First introduced on Feb. 9, 2022 A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve the financial aid process for homeless and foster care youth	Recommendation: Watch Two sponsors Referred to Health, Education, labor and Pensions Committee