

June 28, 2024

### Statement on the U.S. Supreme Court's Decision in Grants Pass v. Johnson

We are deeply concerned by the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to rule in favor of the City of Grants Pass in Grants Pass v. Johnson, allowing cities to criminalize individuals for sleeping outside when they have no alternative. This ruling directly impacts some of the most vulnerable members of our society who, due to circumstances beyond their control, are forced to live without shelter.

This decision undermines the basic principle of human dignity and the fundamental rights of individuals experiencing homelessness. It shifts the focus from addressing the root causes of homelessness—such as lack of affordable housing, inadequate social services, and economic disparities—to penalizing those who are already suffering. Criminalizing homelessness is not a solution; it only exacerbates the problem by further marginalizing and stigmatizing those in need.

At Community Shelter Board, we believe that everyone deserves a safe and stable place to call home. This decision highlights the urgent need for increased investment in affordable housing, comprehensive support services, and compassionate policies that address homelessness with a focus on dignity and respect.

We call on policymakers, community leaders, and citizens to come together to create and support humane solutions to homelessness. Criminalization is not the answer; compassion, understanding, and proactive support are. We remain committed to advocating for the rights of individuals experiencing homelessness and working to ensure that everyone has access to safe and adequate shelter.

We stand in solidarity with those affected by this decision and will continue to fight for a society where everyone has a place to call home.



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