HB 1925 creates a Class C misdemeanor offense for “camping” in public. It also requires jurisdictions to vigorously enforce these Class Cs at the risk of losing state funding.

TRAPPING TEXANS IN POVERTY AND HOMELESSNESS
People who are unsheltered have no way to get to court and pay a $500 ticket and would receive a warrant for failure to pay. Warrants make it nearly impossible to find employment or housing.

RACIAL DISPARITIES
13 percent of Texans are Black, but 37 percent of unhoused people in Texas identified as Black in 2020. Criminalizing the unhoused will only increase disparities in the criminal legal system.

PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS
Ending homelessness is a public health issue and should be treated as such. Individuals experiencing homelessness face high rates of chronic mental and physical health conditions, co-occurring disorders, and barriers to care and food.

FAITH LEADERS OPPOSE CRIMINALIZING HOMELESSNESS
Over 65 faith leaders in Texas have come together to oppose similar measures to criminalize homelessness. They say, “the best pathway toward supporting our unsheltered neighbors is through a community effort to accompany and assist rather than criminalize and isolate.”

DON’T PRIORITIZE CRIMINALIZING HOMELESSNESS OVER PROSECUTING VIOLENT CRIMES
HB 1925 is inhumane and unconstitutional, and is NOT the answer to Texas’ problems with housing insecurity. Vote no to criminalizing unhoused Texans who are simply surviving. Cities should not be forced to choose between prioritizing enforcement of crimes like sexual assault or keeping state grant funding by punishing people for sleeping in public.

INFORMATION SOURCE
- Texas Fair Defense Project
- ACLU TX
- Texas Criminal Justice Coalition
- NASW TX
- NAMI Texas
- Texas Appleseed

BECAUSE THE MOST VULNERABLE TEXANS DESERVE RESOURCES, NOT A JAIL CELL.

Vote NO on HB 1925