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Our collective response to the State of Texas/Governor's interventions regarding homelessness in Austin:

The State of Texas has recognized that homelessness is a problem and the Governor's office has vowed to address the issue. There are two paths leadership can take when facing down this problem.

Establishing a sanctioned encampment gives the appearance that the State is taking a path that addresses homelessness. In reality, it only pushes the problem down the road. Uprooting people to isolated areas subjects Texans to further trauma and a continued likelihood of violence. This strategy runs counter to the coordinated response to homelessness underway in communities throughout Texas and will result in the squandering of state and federal resources dedicated to those locally controlled plans.

We invite the Governor's office to join us on a different path - one that focuses on solving homelessness rather than attempting to hide it. This path uses the Housing First model of housing people as quickly as possible to end their homelessness and then offering wraparound supportive services to help them maintain their housing. This path requires strong leadership, a willingness to make hard choices, and collaboration with unique communities across the state.

Texas has the opportunity to become a model for other states by investing in solutions like affordable housing, supportive services, mental healthcare, and more that enhance the hard work of local communities. We invite Governor Abbott to join us and highlight Texas as the state others follow on the goal of making homelessness rare, brief, and a one-time event.

Texas Homeless Network is joined by Coalition for the Homeless Houston, Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance, Ending Community Homelessness Coalition, Tarrant County Homeless Coalition, Heart of Texas CoC, and the El Paso Coalition for the Homeless.