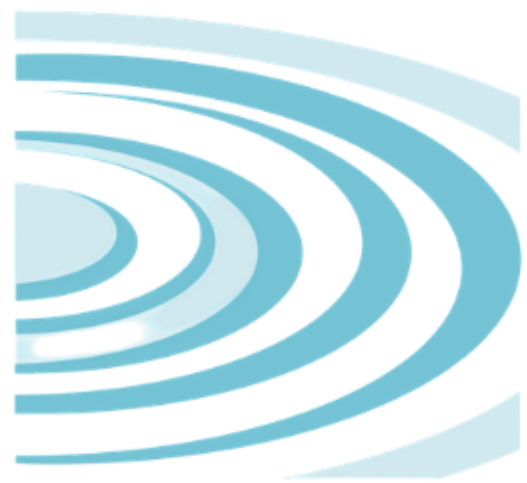


Johnson vs. Grants Pass: One Year in Review



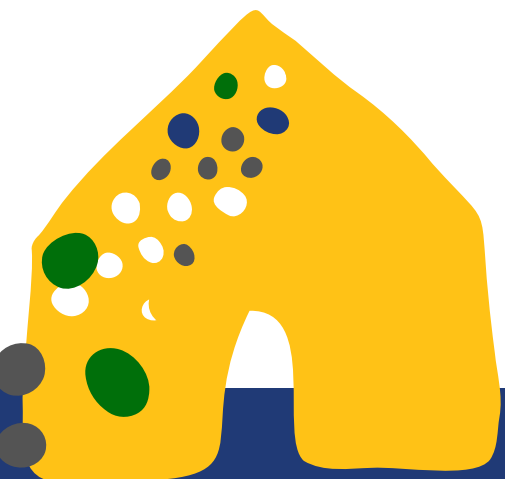
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Connecticut
Department of
HOUSING



Johnson vs. Grants Pass: One Year in Review

- Jesse Rabinowitz, National Homelessness Law Center
- Sarah Gallagher, Town of Hamden
- State Representative Laurie Sweet
- State Representative Kadeem Roberts



Johnson vs. Grants Pass: One Year in Review

Wednesday, May 21st, 2025

Panelists

Sarah Gallagher, Town of Hamden

Alexis Terry, Unhoused Activists Community Team (U-ACT)

Jesse Rabinowitz, National Homelessness Law Center

State Representative Laurie Sweet

State Representative Kadeem Roberts

National Context

On June 28th, 2024, the Supreme Court decided in *Johnson v. Grants Pass*, that cities and states can arrest people for sleeping outside, even when there are no safe alternatives.



SINCE THE GRANTS PASS DECISION.....

250+

LAWS

CRIMINALIZING HOMELESSNESS

HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED NATIONWIDE



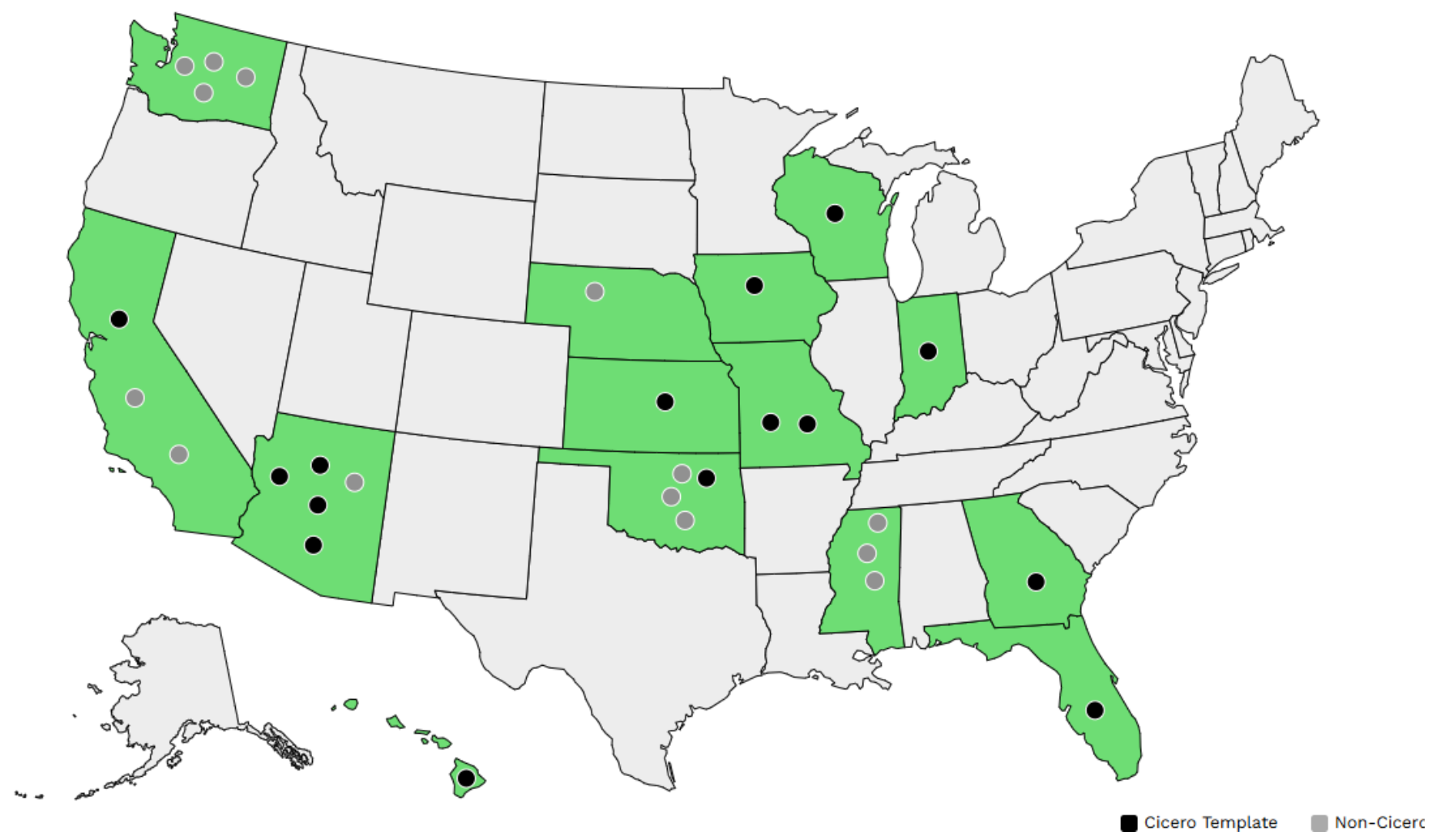
162 PASSED

93 PENDING

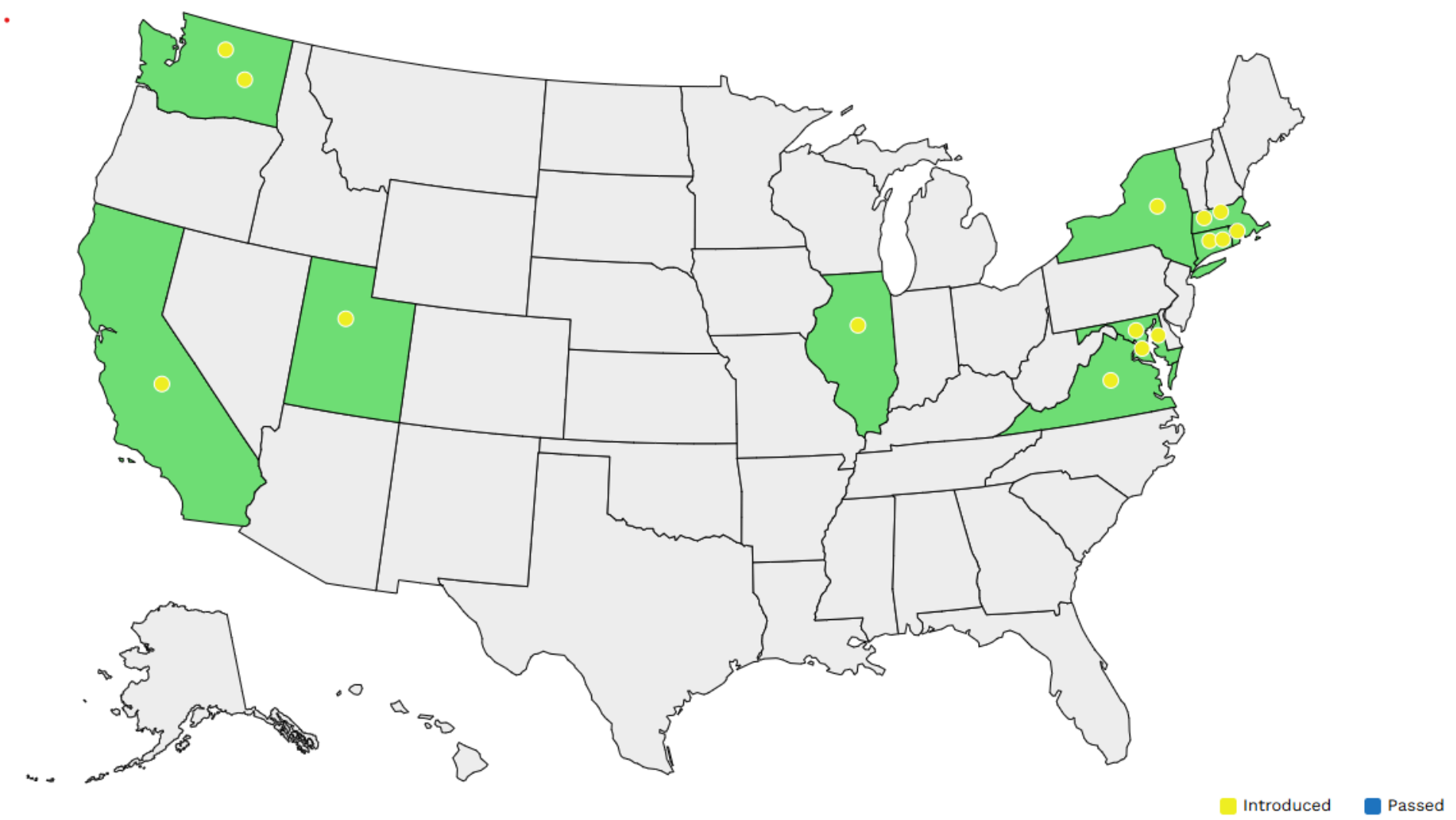
- Nearly half have been introduced in California alone
- Nearly all include or enforce bans on public camping
- 10 bills propose \$1000+ fines for public camping
- ILLINOIS: 4 bans passed, 4 pending

Success at the State Level

Defeated Bills



Positive Policies



“The Emergency is Tonight” – U-ACT



Town of Hamden Right to Housing Ordinance

Local Challenges:

- Housing costs rising, incomes not keeping up
- Shortage of affordable/deeply affordable housing, most affordable housing built prior to 1980
- Homelessness is rising
- Structural & historical racism leading to segregation, housing instability and higher rates of evictions for BIPOC
- Addressing Newhall foundations
- Revaluation taking effect this year



Efforts to Address Homelessness, Housing Access and Affordability in Hamden

- CDBG Supportive Housing Fund
- Advancing Supportive and Affordable Housing
 - CIF and partnership with CAN
- Fair Rent Commission Improvements
- \$1 million ARPA allocation to homelessness response system
- Social Worker Positions in the Library and the Police Department
- Rent Registry Ordinance and new housing position in Planning and Zoning
- Zoning Updates related to Accessory Dwelling Units
- Legislative Council Resolution declaring housing a human right

Hamden Legislative Council Resolution Declaring Housing as a Human Right



- Declare Housing as a Human Right
- Maximize Resources
- Center Equity, Free of Discrimination
- Avoid Civil and Criminal Penalties for the Experience of Homelessness
- Urge state legislation that prohibits fines and arrest for experiencing homelessness
- Develop Homelessness Prevention and Response Plan
- Leverage State and Federal Resources
- Tenant Protections and State Enabling Legislation

H.B. 7033 – Prohibiting Ticketing, Fines & Arrests Statewide

- Prohibits municipalities from arresting, ticketing, or fining people experiencing homelessness when there is nowhere else to go
- Co-sponsors include Rep. Sweet, Rep. Kavros DeGraw, Rep. Shannon, Sen. Anwar, Rep. Delany, Rep. Martinez, Rep. Reyes, Rep. Menapace, Sen. Rahman, Rep. Hughes, Rep. Biggins, and Rep. Nick Gauthier





Thank You!

For any questions email info@cceh.org

Visit our website cceh.org

