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February 3, 2021

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C., 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I write to respectfully request that you remove Dr. Robert Marbut from his current position as the Executive Director of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), and appoint to the position someone better qualified and dedicated to ending homelessness in a compassionate and evidence-based manner. At least 600,000 Americans are homeless on any given night; we have no time to waste in addressing this urgent moral crisis.

USICH is responsible for connecting 19 agencies in order to maximize the government's response to our nation's crisis of homelessness, but during Dr. Marbut's tenure, USICH has not risen to its potential. Dr. Marbut has instead stonewalled the advancement of proven permanent housing programs. He has travelled nationwide, but has consistently failed to communicate his visits with government officials, local leaders or service providers, thereby allowing essential partnerships in the homelessness advocacy community to decay. The Executive Director of USICH must do better.

As you have noted, it is high time the federal government takes the crisis of homelessness seriously and urgently. The Executive Director of USICH has the opportunity to oversee, under your leadership, unprecedented investment in the services, supports and reforms so badly needed across the nation by people experiencing homelessness and their communities. I share your admirable goal of ending this brutal symptom of America's shortage of affordable housing, rampant inequality and lack of access to mental and physical health care. I look forward to working with your administration to address the causes of homelessness, because I believe that shelter is a fundamental human right. In the world's wealthiest country, no one should be forced to bear the cold of winter or heat of summer without a roof over their head.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden
United States Senator

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