



## **Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness**

*Action Alert February 21st, 2010*

**IMMEDIATE ACTION:** Tell President Obama to End Homelessness for ALL Americans

**The Message:** Expand the commitment of a “Zero Tolerance for Homeless Veterans” policy to “Zero Tolerance for Homelessness in America.”

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing you today to commend you for your commitment to ending homelessness among veterans in five years, to validate you and your administration’s stand of zero tolerance for homeless veterans and to ask that in order to achieve these goals you vastly increase the scale and scope of our efforts to end homelessness for all people in America.

Without addressing the broader issue and working to end all homelessness in America, we can never end homelessness for veterans. We must not only provide homes to the currently homeless, we must eliminate the risk of homelessness that veterans and others in America face.

Please, I ask that you stand by your commitment and do what it takes to eliminate homelessness among veterans: eliminate homelessness altogether.

**Whom to Contact:** **President Obama. Best way to sign the petition is online at** <http://bit.ly/9Kz4GI>. But if you sign our petition today and give us your email address, we will enter your info on the website for you. Thanks.

### **Background Information:**

President Obama is on record as being “personally committed to ending homelessness among veterans within the next five years.” The president has taken an inspiring and powerful stand against the continued suffering of more than 150,000 veterans currently homeless in the United States. Today’s homeless veterans are spread widely throughout every system of service and across every category of homeless. Further complicating matters, many veterans resist shelter, treatment and services of veteran specific resources.

President Obama’s approach to ending homelessness among veterans must be driven by the needs and demands of homeless veterans and not by the systems built to serve them.

Already the VA has drastically increased spending to prevent and reduce homelessness among veterans, but even with those increases the problem isn’t going to go away until we recognize one simple truth: trying to end homelessness among veterans will never work until we end all homelessness.

As long as we fail to address the overall problem of homelessness in America, tens of thousands of homeless veterans will remain forgotten, with thousands more falling into homelessness each year.

Today you can help by sending a letter to President Obama affirming his personal commitment to ending homelessness among veterans in five years and validating his administration’s stand of zero tolerance for homeless veterans. To fulfill this commitment, the path towards success will occur when all Americans are home.