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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ARIZONA HOUSING COALITION LAUNCHES COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVE IN RESPONSE TO SUPREME COURT RULING**

**PHOENIX, ARIZONA (July 1, 2024)** - The recent Supreme Court ruling in *Grants Pass v. Johnson* has held that penalties for outdoor sleeping are lawful as they target voluntary actions rather than a person's homeless status. The decision also holds that low-level fines and short-term jail sentences do not violate the 8th Amendment. However, the decision also highlights the challenges – characterized by the Court as impossibilities faced by law enforcement in assessing the voluntariness of homelessness based on shelter availability.

In light of this ruling, the Arizona Housing Coalition is continuing to take proactive steps and pursue collaborative approaches to address homelessness. The Coalition will convene a diverse group of stakeholders, including government officials, homeless service providers, mental health experts, law enforcement, substance abuse professionals, and individuals with lived experience. Together, we will collaboratively develop practical, non-partisan solutions that communities across Arizona can implement in response to the new law of the land.

Nicole Newhouse, Executive Director at the Arizona Housing Coalition, stated, *"We knew the Supreme Court's ruling – regardless of the outcome – would produce no shelter beds, create no new housing, solve no practical problems for those working on the ground to address homelessness. As we look to the weeks and months ahead, the Coalition will bring together cities, providers, elected leaders, law enforcement, and faith-based partners to address homelessness through meaningful and humane solutions. Our collective goal is to create effective and compassionate strategies that address homelessness holistically. Through collaboration with stakeholders and local leaders, we aim to build a future where everyone has access to safe and stable housing. It is through these united efforts that lasting change can be achieved, ensuring dignity and safety for all those affected by homelessness."*

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The Arizona Housing Coalition is a 501(c)3 collaborative association leading statewide efforts to end homelessness and advocate for safe, affordable homes. The Coalition's membership includes more than 350 nonprofit organizations, affordable housing developers, government entities, and others that share its vision of stable homes for all. To learn more about the Arizona Housing Coalition, visit [www.azhousingcoalition.org](http://www.azhousingcoalition.org) or call (602) 340-9393.