

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2217

To amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 to include homeless status in the definition of “hate crime” for the purposes of Federal sentencing provisions.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 8, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (for herself, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. KUCINICH, and Mr. JEFFERSON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 to include homeless status in the definition of “hate crime” for the purposes of Federal sentencing provisions.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Hate Crimes Against  
5 the Homeless Enforcement Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. HOMELESS STATUS INCLUDED IN DEFINITION OF**  
2 **HATE CRIME.**

3 Section 280003(a) of the Violent Crime Control and  
4 Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (28 U.S.C. 994 note) is  
5 amended to read as follows:

6 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 “(1) HATE CRIME.—The term ‘hate crime’  
8 means a crime in which the defendant intentionally  
9 selects a victim, or in the case of a property crime,  
10 the property that is the object of the crime, because  
11 of the actual or perceived race, color, religion, na-  
12 tional origin, ethnicity, gender, disability, sexual ori-  
13 entation, or homeless status of any person.

14 “(2) HOMELESS STATUS.—The term ‘homeless  
15 status’ means the status of an individual who lacks  
16 a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence,  
17 or an individual who has a primary nighttime resi-  
18 dence that is—

19 “(A) a public or private place not designed  
20 for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping ac-  
21 commodation for human beings, including cars,  
22 parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, sub-  
23 standard housing, bus or train stations, or simi-  
24 lar settings;

25 “(B) a supervised publicly or privately op-  
26 erated shelter designed to provide temporary

1 living accommodations, including motels, hotels,  
2 congregate shelters, and transitional housing; or  
3 “(C) housing of other persons in which the  
4 individual is temporarily staying due to loss of  
5 housing, economic hardship, or a similar rea-  
6 son.”.

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