

**ACT  
NOW!**

Congress is **NOW** (Spring '09) considering changes to the definition of **HOMELESSNESS**.

HUD's current definition ignores families and youth.

**SEND THE PIGGIES FAX WITH YOUR MESSAGE NOW!**  
(use form pg. 2 of this document)



Photo © Pat Van Doren

**These little piggies are homeless...**

The Homeless Children and Youth Act of 2009 will improve HUD's efforts to address homelessness, **ESPECIALLY** for **FAMILIES** and **TEENS** currently not considered homeless.

HR 29 bipartisan lead sponsors: Reps. Judy Biggert (R-13th/IL), Carolyn McCarthy (D-4th/NY), Geoff Davis (R-4th/KY), Andre Carson (D-7th/IN) and Ruben Hinojosa (D-15th/TX)  
**THEY NEED MORE CO-SPONSORS FOR HR 29!**

## ► **ACTION...FAX YOUR CONGRESSPERSON**

### **Ask her/him to sign on as a co-sponsor of HR 29**

- ▶ To get their fax number, go to [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov).
- ▶ Type in your 9-digit zip code in the upper left corner.
- ▶ Copy (or download) the PIGGIES fax form.
- ▶ Hand-write a brief message to your Congressperson.
- ▶ Fax (or mail); a follow-up call is a great idea!
- ▶ **ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO DO THE SAME!** Share this PIGGIES ALERT far and wide!
- ▶ **ENDORSE HR 29**— email [kids@npach.org](mailto:kids@npach.org) and indicate your support.
- ▶ **TIMING**—now (2/09) Co-sponsors are Step 1 of a long process.

## ► **TALKING POINTS**—summary

(more info — [www.hearus.us/compassion-epidemic.html](http://www.hearus.us/compassion-epidemic.html)):

- ▶ HUD's definition of homelessness ignores homeless families and teens not staying in HUD-funded shelters, at their peril.
- ▶ HR 29 would create a streamlined referral process based on other successful initiatives.
- ▶ HR 29 preserves local flexibility to spend McKinney-Vento funds on local priorities.
- ▶ HR 29 will promote interagency cooperation.



Brief messages are fine.

Use the PIGGIES form if possible. It conveys a poignant image that will get noticed.

You may call or mail, but faxes will be most effective. **FEEL FREE TO WIDELY SHARE THIS FORM.**

If you have any notable response, feel free to share it with [HEAR US](http://www.hearus.us).

HEAR US Inc. 1163 E Ogden Ave., 705-329, Naperville, IL 60563 vm/fax 630/225-5012  
[www.hearus.us](http://www.hearus.us) [diane@hearus.us](mailto:diane@hearus.us) Diane Nilan, president/founder

*HEAR US...giving voice and visibility to homeless kids...*

