

Roberta DiMezza

From: David Brunetti <davidabrunetti1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 8:38 PM
To: Rep. Craven, Robert E.; Rep. McEntee, Carol Hagan; Rep. Knight, Jason; Rep. Ajello, Edith H.; Rep. Batista, Jose F.; Rep. Bennett, David A.; Rep. Caldwell, Justine A.; Rep. Casimiro, Julie A.; Rep. Corvese, Arthur J.; Rep. Cruz, Cherie L.; Rep. Dawson, Matthew S.; Rep. Felix, Leonela; Rep. Noret, Thomas E.; Rep. Place, David J.; Rep. Roberts, Sherry
Cc: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: House Bill No. 7967 - Updates the Homeless Bill of Rights

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Dear Chair Craven, First Vice Chair McEntee, Second Vice Chair Knight, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I have written at this time to provide you with my comments regarding House Bill 7967, which updates the Homeless Bill of Rights to add rules governing the interaction with encampments and include the right to access clean and sanitary conditions.

This update is sorely needed to restore some humanity to the system.

Human rights violations, big and small, are a daily part of being unhoused in Rhode Island. The state may never adequately house and care for its residents, but at the very least, bad actors representing the state should be prevented from adding to the misery of our unhoused siblings.

The Homeless Bill of Rights needs teeth. The small fines for violating the human rights of unhoused people in this bill – fines which should be higher - are an assessment of guilt against a system that will only care when it has to - and it validates the humanity of people who are too often treated as less than human and beneath the contempt of elected officials such as Rhode Island Governor Daniel McKee and Providence Mayor Brett Smiley.

If our rights as human beings mean anything to the members of this committee, you must pass this bill

Sincerely,

David A. Brunetti
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