

## **Testimony in support of H7967: Homeless Bill of Rights**

Dr. Hans Scholl, 71 Fales Avenue, Barrington, RI 02806

Date of Hearing: March 27, 2024

To Chair Craven and the honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I support H7967, because it adds teeth to the requirement in the current bill of rights

“... (that a homeless person) has the right to a reasonable expectation of privacy in his or her personal property to the same extent as personal property in a permanent residence”,

by adding the explanatory statement

“..., and the same right to privacy in his or her temporary housing, including tents, as a permanent residence.”

It is unfortunate that it has become necessary to further explain the existing requirement in the bill, but there has been a recent well documented incident<sup>1</sup> during which law officers broke the law and harassed homeless persons in a temporary housing location, so far without consequences for the officers.

H7967 also

- adds requirements for the police and public works departments to adopt written policies and procedures necessary to fully comply with all requirements of the bill, and to make them publicly available,
- asks for collaboration with outreach workers and for defined periods of notice before any relocation of occupants of encampments, and
- sets specific fines for violating the bill of rights and requires the moneys to be used for housing stabilization services or to address other issues related to homelessness.

Please bring the bill to a vote in 2024, to send a clear message that the same human rights apply to the homeless as to all of us.

Thank you very much for considering my input, and thank you to Representative Stewart for introducing this important bill.



Dr. Hans Scholl

March 25, 2024

71 Fales Avenue

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<sup>1</sup> <https://steveahlquist.substack.com/p/the-homeless-bill-of-rights-needs?triedRedirect=true>

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