

**Testimony Re: H-5665, An Act Relating to Property – Homeless Bill of Rights
House Municipal Government and Housing Committee**

April 2, 2025

Greetings Chairperson Casey

I'm writing in strong support of the changes being made to R.I.G.L. 34-37.1. This law passed in 2012 aims to give all people experiencing homelessness the same rights and privileges as any resident of the state. Unfortunately this law has not been strong enough to hold officers of the law accountable for their actions. These revisions are imperative to provide the unhoused basic civil rights.

My hope is that with a renewed interest in the Homeless Bill of Rights and these proposed revisions, the homeless population will not experience the discrimination and harassment that they currently endure.

I am the donations coordinator for the Mathewson Street Church program serving the unhoused. I work 2 days a week in the clothing room helping people find things that they need for survival on the street. Several times a month I help people replenish the clothing and bedding that the police have unlawfully disposed of. This law makes disposing of someone's property without reason illegal.

This law not only benefits the homeless but also the public by providing those who are forced to live outside access to trash receptacles and toilet facilities in order to live in clean and sanitary conditions.

Thank you for considering this very important legislation and I look forward to it passing in the near future.

**With respect,
Kendra Anderson
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