

House Committee on Municipal Government & Housing

Good morning , Members of the House Committee on Municipal Government & Housing

I am writing to express my support for the House Bill H 5665, Which adds additional protections to the Rhode Island Homeless Bill of Rights for the many Rhode Islander's that are experiencing homelessness.

I am a Rhode Island College student that majors in Social Work. My father was one of the many people that experienced homelessness in Rhode Island. Since I was a child I watched for many years the struggles he had endured while he experienced homelessness. My fathers name was Kenneth James McCarthy , he passed away in 2013 and at that time he was still homeless. I watched many individuals treat my father incorrectly even with this bill being established. It is time for a change, we should fight to enforce the homeless bill of rights more often. The people that experience homelessness in Rhode Island should have the same opportunities as everyone else. I witness many other homeless people being denied entrance into establishments when all they want to do is purchase food. This is a problem.

My father had a great support system but with the way some individuals treat the homeless population makes it harder for them to maintain stability. I'm reaching out to you all and asking for you all to hear the pleas of the people experiencing homelessness in Rhode Island. Many of these individuals don't have the resources they need to get back on their feet. Please consider Voting yes to pass this bill, Which gives the homeless population the ability to improve their living conditions.

The guarantees include access to trash receptacles and access to toilet facilities, which helps maintain clean public spaces. This bill will also protect homeless individuals from unreasonable searches by the authorities, providing them with the same privacy and safety net as everyone else. This bill will also help hold individuals accountable for violating the rights of the homeless population. Without this bill being enforced we are leaving many individuals that experience homelessness vulnerable. Rhode Island should be a state that fights to end homelessness. This bill will be a step toward ensuring that the homeless population is treated fairly. The homeless people in Rhode Island deserve your support and your vote.

Please say Yes on H 5665.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Shyanne Jones

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Rhode Island Homeless Advocacy Project