

HB2367 TESTIMONY

April 13th, 2021

Chair Bynum, Vice-Chair Noble, Vice Chair Power, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

I am Dr. Jacek/Jack Haciak, Director of DynamicChanges LLC, and a retired Psychologist and past administrator of several mental health programs.

I am supporting HB 2367 based on: the evidence that homelessness produces trauma; the social responsibility we all have for an equitable sharing of resources sufficient for all human sustenance; and the need to rectify our participation in the traumatization of our fellow human beings fueled ultimately by unchecked greed.

I am a proponent of a capitalist economy within limits. I am an opponent of unlimited capitalism. Unlimited and excessive wealth begets unlimited and excessive poverty. We are culpable; and we must act now to stop criminalizing the effects of poverty, and then we must make reparations. A starting point is to immediately halt the criminalization of impoverishment. We must halt the trauma inflicted by making it illegal for the homeless to use public spaces to rest. The torture effects from standing cells and forced standing is not far beyond the plight of those currently prohibited by law from resting in public spaces when they have no ability to purchase space or shelter.

There is no moral defense for such laws. We are unnecessarily inflicting harm. We must enact the right to rest.

Thank you.

Jacek/Jack Haciak, Psy.D., Director
DynamicChanges, LLC

Herring, C. et al. (2020) Pervasive Penalty: How the Criminalization of Poverty Perpetuates Homelessness. *Social Problems*, Volume 67, Issue 1, February 2020, Pages 131–149, <https://doi.org/10.1093/socpro/spz004>