

I am writing in SUPPORT of HB 2367, establishing the Right to Rest Act which safeguards the dignity of people. People experiencing homelessness should not be criminalized for our society's failure to protect its people against the inevitable vicissitudes of luck and unluck which are enshrined in the very structure of our market economy. But for the "grace of god", any one of us could find ourselves in the same position. It's as if our society wants people to fail: first, the rents and cost of housing is so high many cannot even dream of having a home; second, so many people are working full-time jobs at such low wages they are constantly on the verge of not being able to make rent/home payments; third, anyone who becomes seriously ill likely won't have adequate health insurance to get them through the illness, or the savings necessary to cushion having to take time off of work; fourth, the stress of all of this is a recipe for making anyone sick! On top of all that, when people become homeless, they are automatically criminalized for not having a home, blamed for the failures of their society. Meanwhile, certain people at the top of society have more money than they even know what to do with. This kind of situation is not what a "civil" society is supposed to be like. If we were a true "civil" society, we wouldn't even be needing this bill, but it is at least a step in a better direction, better than what we have now. The very least we can do is to de-criminalize homelessness and grant people the RIGHT TO REST. Then we should turn our attentions to finding a way to ensure that every person has a home they can rest IN. If we fail to vote this law into being, we are demonstrating that we do not value basic human rights or dignity, preferring the strong arm of the law to make up for our lack of compassion and basic fairness. I will be keeping a close eye on this bill and noting whether politicians vote to uphold the most basic of professed American values: those of human dignity and fair play....or not.