

I am writing to urge you, my state legislators, to pass this absolutely essential bill to provide a base set of human rights for the people who are suffering tremendously on our city's streets right now. Constantly harassed, demonized, swept under the rug and evicted with violent raids, this is a population of human beings that our city, state and society have somehow decided are 'untouchable'. I urge you to look beyond your own prejudices against people who are living on the street - whether you think they don't deserve help, or that they are addicts, or that they are somehow below you because you are lucky enough to live in a home - please try, just try, to remember that these are human beings just like yourself. They could be your sister, brother, father, mother, or even your child. They absolutely deserve this bill to provide a base set of rights. Of course cities and counties can go above and beyond this bill to provide services and support for people who need it. But at the very least, you must pass this bill - for the sake of our shared humanity. It is essential for people living on the street to be able to have dignity, to have a law at the state level that they can point to when they are attacked and swept aside, a law that confirms, "Yes! You are a human being, deserving of a basic set of human rights." Please, find your humanity and pass this bill. Thank you.