

Submitter: Lu Skach

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Human Services

Measure: HB4079

I can't begin to express what even a small amount of monthly basic income like \$750 would do for me and my life. If you haven't been poor in a while, or if you haven't been poor in 2022, probably fundamentally can't relate or no the amount of mental, Emotional, spiritual, practical, relational, professional, and logistical stress it places on an individual. Today's poverty feels different than other poverty's before it: it is vicious, it is intentionally inflicted, end it is more inescapable than ever before. The fear I feel about the ever-looming loss of basic safety, housing, community, and acceptance - universal human needs, mind you - clouds my every waking moment, and infuses my time with a sense of urgency and despair such that even my days "off" are not restful. all it takes is one illness, one injury, one funeral to attend, one catalytic converter theft, one water spill on my laptop, one mistake or miscalculation or unavoidable obstacle- and I don't even have kids. I have no idea how families are surviving this. Survival in poverty is grueling, demoralizing, and ultimately a game of odds - it is structurally inflicted and structurally enforced. In a country that pretends an individual's life can be transformed by the individual, it's a little embarrassing that we aren't doing everything possible to make that the reality. Hard work can only take you so far. It can take you so much farther when your basic needs are met. Survival was never supposed to be like this. People deserve safety, people deserve security, people deserve money.