

Submitter: Susan Roth

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure: SB1076

I strongly oppose SB 1076. Although I understand the heart behind the bill is to help those without housing have a safe place to recover, I believe it is shortsighted to ask the hospital system to take on this burden. There is no funding attached to this bill and it would further stretch the ER staff and system. Emergency Rooms are meant to serve the general public who are facing life or death issues, not to provide a safe and warm shelter. By passing this bill, we would further hand-tie our doctors and nurses from doing the job they are meant to do and desire to do; saving lives.

Here in Marion County alone, with sky-rocketing homeless numbers, I'm afraid of the ramifications if this bill passed. It's not hard to imagine that the word would spread that the ER is a place one could go to seek shelter, even if there was no medical emergency. We need to find other solutions to the homeless issue here in Marion County (and other counties facing large homeless challenges).

I am opposed to further burdening our already short short staffed healthcare system. Please vote no on SB 1076.