

Testimony continued.

The Right to Rest bill, HB 2367, would end the criminalization of homelessness and allow police to do the work for which they train—preventing and solving real crimes. Police enforcement of anti-camping and no trespassing ordinances does not reduce homelessness. It is as expensive as it is ineffective. Numerous studies have demonstrated that it is far less expensive to provide those who are unhoused with housing and supportive services than it is to bear the costs of their involvement with local police, courts, jail, hospital emergency departments, and ultimately the state's disposal of their unclaimed remains. Moreover, criminalization of homelessness is simply inhumane. It kicks men, women, and children while they are down, something we do not allow to happen to homeless dogs and cats. Passage of the Right to Rest bill, HB 2367, is long overdue.