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To whom it may concern;

I stand before you in opposition to Senate Bill 234. The Baltimore Rescue mission opened its doors in 1956 as an emergency overnight shelter for the African American community because during that period in history, the African American Homeless population had nowhere to go due to segregation. Our concerns about this bill are listed below.

1. What happened to the study that was to be conducted in the 2024 legislative session that was to be completed by July, 2025?
2. Why were no homeless shelters contacted about those studies?
3. Why is this legislation so broad that it does not have any exemptions for true faith organizations who do not accept one cent of government funding in any manner?
4. Why is this bill violating the religious liberties of those organizations who accept NO govt. funding?
5. Are you willing to amend this bill to include those exemptions?
6. Have you thought about the ramifications of this bill on the homeless shelters who do not receive govt. funding based on their sincerely held religious beliefs?
7. Some of those ramifications are that they will not be able to afford the incurred costs associated with this bill and therefore having to close their doors putting even more homeless on the streets.
8. If those exemptions are not put in place, this then becomes a religious freedom issue that violates the first amendment and will eventually make its way to the supreme court, thus giving the state of Maryland negative press and the sponsors of this bill.
9. Who is the driving force behind this bill and what is their hidden agenda?
10. Legislators are elected to represent the citizens, not special interests .