

Judicial Proceedings
Senate Bill 49
Favorable

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee;

I urge you to give Senate Bill 49, regarding the rights of unhoused individuals, a FAVORABLE report.

As someone who was homeless for a few years as a teen and young adult, and whose brother has been homeless on and off for over 25 years, this legislation is personal for me. My brother and I have both had to worry about being jailed for being homeless (or unhoused, as people say these days.) That was scarier to me than freezing or being attacked when I was dozing on a sidewalk all night. My brother has a fear of the police (he has been assaulted by them before,) and can be triggered by their presence.

I really appreciate that the sponsor of this bill recognizes the humanity of unhoused people. I didn't suddenly become less worthy of dignity and consideration when I was kicked out, or more worthy when I was taken in by a friend's family. People in this country are often given value based on their wealth. This bill demonstrates a rejection of that idea.

Please vote favorable on Senate Bill 49. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Debi Jasen
Pasadena, MD