

Hazel Crawley

From: Jonathan Evans <evansjonathanw@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2023 10:22 AM
To: Hazel Crawley
Subject: Housing Subcommittee - Comment Evans 10/5/23

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Hello,

My name is Jonathan Evans and I am submitting the following comment to be READ ALOUD in favor of the bill of rights for people experiencing homelessness and fair chance housing.

I am a Lansing resident. I worked for 3 years in intervention and prevention programs for people experiencing homelessness, including both youth and adults.

This bill is about giving a civil pathway for people who are unhoused to protect them. They may leverage this language against those who would otherwise treat them, their property, and their children with malice or indifference. This bill will help elderly people, teens, young mothers, disabled people, and children not get kicked out of warm places. This will help them not get picked up by police at night and dropped in dangerous places. This bill will help kids go to school.

There are several systemic and structural reasons why there are so many people unhoused and so many people only one paycheck away from being unhoused, including but not limited to:

- Property and land owners are financially incentivized to sit on empty properties for decades until they appreciate
- Property and land owners are financially incentivized to neglect their units and past costs and consequences of maintaining them onto tenant
- The cognitive dissonance of homeowners who have the attention of elected officials but are isolated from the problem. Out of sight out of mind for many homeowners. That doesn't mean it's not a crisis!
- Federal and State government are hemorrhaging money without solving the housing crisis in two ways. 1) by purchasing hotel stays for people when buying long term housing is much cheaper 2) Right now, housing programs, including those for people with disabilities, contract from FOR-PROFIT landlords who are incentivized to pass costs on to their tenants in order to make the maximum profit. The govt is losing money on this endeavor, failing to solve the issue of homelessness, and putting vulnerable people at risk
- Landlords control the quality of environment people live in but are not held to an oath or well-enforced licensure for keeping human beings safe in their homes. Doctors take an oath because of the responsibility of their control over people's physical bodies. Why is housing different?
- Right now in Lansing it's only a \$150 fine to rent a home to human beings without certifying its safety or their licensure. If a landlord makes seven times that amount in one month's rent, from one unit, how could that ever possibly hold them accountable not to harm tenants by exposing them to hazards?Despite what they may say, landlords are largely NOT operating in good faith. It is your job to protect us. Please follow through on this promise.