

Mr. Speaker:

When I look at Bill H-8000 I appreciate the intent -at least as I interpret – to dignify the homeless living in tents throughout our state by giving them notice and a few weeks to move rather than what was done in East Providence.

Unfortunately, it does nothing to solve the problem. I am sure those living in the vicinity of these encampments will be satisfied, but ... how American of us.

I recently became somewhat of an advocate by teaming with my friend Bernie Beaudreau as he would check in with the homeless of the encampments in the E.P. area to help with heat, food, and just simple conversation and care. Each tent is a completely different story with varying degrees of mental instability or addiction etc, but the common theme is almost always a lack of funds to afford continuous housing. It would be so great if this bill were amended to include mandatory state resources to aide these people in finding a more permanent location, offering intense counseling, healthcare, even possible job placement.

I do not have any depth of knowledge around homelessness. I just found myself being humbled as December and January brought extreme cold night after night, and February snows caused the collapse of tents. Sleeping safely in my warm house, having a hot shower and clean clothes made me a little uncomfortable and grateful while also wondering what can be done to help so many of our brothers and sisters who are homeless.

In my humble opinion, this bill does not solve any problem for the person who is homeless.

Sincerely,

Larry Hall

