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From: Jeri Shepherd
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2018 1:06 PM
To: jonathan.singer.house@state.co.us
Subject: Please vote YES on HB 1067

When evaluating policy, if a policy is both humane and cost-effective, it makes sense to adopt it.

It makes no fiscal sense to jail people (or subject them to the court process where they could end up being jailed) for the status of being someone who does not have a home. Sheriff Pelle was quoted in the Boulder Weekly as saying it "cost a bunch of taxpayer money" to lock people up under these circumstances.

Additionally, criminalizing homeless people is also inhumane. When law enforcement officers act in enmity to people because of extreme poverty, it undermines trust in law enforcement in all communities. It is also morally wrong to A. physically take from people blankets, sleeping bags, etc. in sub-freezing/sub-zero temperature because it has become a crime to survive on the streets, B. take their possessions (what few they may have), including IDs, family photos, etc. which impact a person's ability to obtain employment, stabilize their situation, etc.

If we as a society do not have the political or moral will to care for "the least of these," let us at least quit hassling people. I believe it was the Dalai Lama who said if you can't help, at least don't hurt.

If we finally decide to implement long-lasting solutions, we can look to the State of Utah, a red state who figured out it was cheaper and more humane to house people than to leave them on the streets.

There are adequate laws to address the concerns of anyone who may break the law, regardless of their housing status. We do not need to criminalize the status of homelessness/extreme poverty to make us safe as a community. Any law in our state that does that offends basic human dignity and should be repealed. Please vote YES on HB 1067. Thank you very much for your time.

Jeri D. Shepherd
Attorney at Law
710-11th Avenue, Suite 203-D
Greeley, CO 80631
970.396.9493
jeri@sheplaw.comcastbiz.net