



To: Whom It May Concern

From: Department of Political Science, CU Denver

Re: Proposed Colorado Right to Rest Act (HB18-1067)

The Colorado “Right to Rest Act” (HB 18-1067) is currently under consideration in the Colorado State Legislature. This year, as in previous years, the University of Colorado Denver and the Auraria Higher Education Center (AHEC) have both expressed their opposition to this bill, which aims to protect the rights of Coloradans to “use and move freely in public spaces without discrimination, to rest in public spaces without discrimination (and) to accept food in any public space where food is not prohibited.” The Department of Political Science does not share in this opposition to the Right to Rest Act.

To join in the public dialogue regarding an issue affecting our students, our campus, and our urban community, faculty of the Political Science have reviewed the content of the proposed Colorado Right to Rest Act. Following that review, discussion, and faculty vote, the Political Science Department concluded that the Right to Rest Act correctly expresses the right of all residents to move through and rest in public space. The Act is also supported by strong scholarly evidence regarding the harmful effects of laws that target homeless individuals by making it illegal to conduct daily acts of living (e.g., sleeping, sitting, or eating) in public places. Evidence reveals that such laws harm the health, safety and quality of life of homeless individuals.

For these reasons, the CU Denver Department of Political Science supports the proposed Colorado “Right to Rest” Act.