

Iowa Council on Homelessness

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Overarching Goal:

- Introduce the Homeless Bill of Rights (BoR) at a state and local level, along with exploring the components of employment discrimination based upon housing status.

Historical Perspective:

- A Homeless BoR has been passed and successfully implemented in four states
 - Rhode Island, June 2012
 - Connecticut, June 2013
 - Vermont, July 2013
 - Illinois, August 2013
- A Homeless BoR has been passed and successfully implemented in one city
 - Duluth, MN, January 2014

Components of Homeless BoR

1. Move freely in public spaces
2. Right to equal treatment by all state and municipal agencies
3. Equal opportunities for employment w/o discrimination due to lack of permanent address
4. Receive emergency medical care

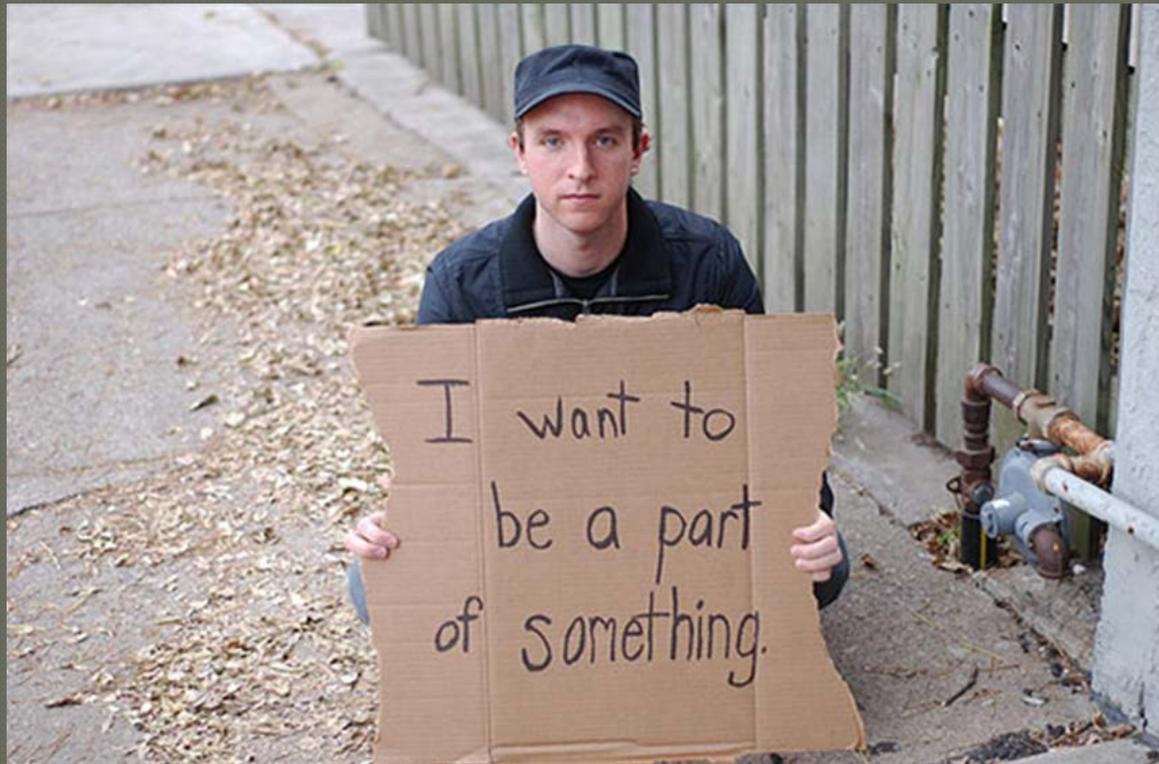
Components of Homeless BoR

5. Register to vote and be able to vote
6. The right to confidentiality
7. Reasonable expectation of privacy in personal property
8. (VT, IL) Continued enrollment of school-aged children

Employment Discrimination

- Housing status currently is not a protected class
- Often have to list shelter, social service or no address
- Homeless BoR would protect in seeking and maintaining employment
- Without protection from employment discrimination, cycle of homelessness cannot be broken

Questions



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