

Submitter: Trevor Phillips
On Behalf Of: SB 1076
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: SB1076

Healthcare Committee members,

I can imagine that SB 1076 may seem reasonable and beneficial. But it will do very little and possibly nothing to prevent or end houselessness for our unsheltered community members. It feels like the Emergency Room is supposed to step up and serve as the release valve for our unraveling healthcare system. This time the ER is to serve as the release valve for our societies failing to address homelessness. You should understand, we in the ER don't typically have any laxity or slack. We are all working as hard as we ever have. As a board certified Emergency room doctor, I have seen our staff step up time and time again. But right now the well is as empty as I've ever seen it. We have no more pressure to release for the rest of the system. We are struggling to maintain our primary role of providing medical screening exam and stabilization if found to be unstable.

We need resources and funding and coordination of funding to achieve real world results for our community members. This bill comes across as an unfunded mandate that will without funding, resources and coordination of all the above make things worse. Wait times will increase. Left without being seen will increase. People with potentially unstable conditions will be less likely to be seen.

Why have we as a society come to accept the routine use of hallway beds. Hallway beds are just now beds, but not really. If this Senate Bill hasn't gone through a committee or task force, I suggest you get some current practicing ER physicians and nurses and care managers together and ask them what they think about this. It's too much right, and it's impossible to get anything beneficial out of this without additional resources and funding and paid staff to coordinate it too.

Sincerely, Trevor Phillips, MD