

Dear Chair Bynum, Co-Chairs Noble and Power, and the entire House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Kaia Sand and I am the executive director of Street Roots. Thank you for taking up HB 2367, the Right to Rest Act, which I strongly support.

People surviving on the streets are faced with the impossible situation: their existence is too often illegal, and the enforcement of laws on people who are homeless simply make everything worse. People are subjected to new traumas and legal entanglements that create additional barriers to housing and employment.

The Right to Rest Act has been developed from what people on the streets need, based on hundreds upon hundreds of surveys. This is not theoretical. It's about the fact that every day, the poorest people face over-policing.

This is a cruel outcome of existing laws that criminalize homelessness, and it is time to reverse this by centering the poorest people in our policy. The Right to Rest Act is an important step in making this happen.

Sincerely,  
Kaia Sand  
Executive Director,  
Street Roots