THE RIGHT TO REST ACT:
A MULTI-STATE CAMPAIGN TO RESTORE THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE UNHOUSED
Cause and Effect

HUD’s budget authority was cut by 77% from 1978 to 1983. As a result emergency shelters opened nationwide.

2004 Constant Millions of dollars

- McKinney/Homeless Assistance *
- HOPE VI **
- NEW Public Housing Development ***
Comparison of Federal Funding Priorities

2013 Dollars (in Billions)

2 Virginia Class Attack Submarines: $4.25

All Homeless Assistance Grants: $1.73

29 F-35 Fighters (Joint Strike Fighter): $9.17

All Public Housing Operating Fund: $4.06

4 Littoral Combat Ship (LCS): $2.24

All Public Housing Capital Fund: $2.18
The Vicious Cycle of Homeless Policy

1. Temporary responses to homelessness that fail to address the systemic causes of homelessness.
2. Periodic calls for local homeless plans based on the newest policy.
3. Ever-changing policies geared toward fixing different sub-populations of homeless people.
4. Stereotypes of homeless people as degenerate.
5. Premise that homelessness is caused by the deficiencies of homeless people.

Increased Homelessness.
It seems that we have accepted to address this vicious cycle by criminalizing the people instead of addressing the system that made them houseless/should be housing them in the first place—We need to restore the rights!

- The right to move freely, rest, sleep, and protect oneself from the elements
- The right to occupy a legally parked vehicle
- The right to give and receive food in areas which food is not prohibited
- The right to a reasonable expectation of privacy of one's property
THESE LAWS THAT ARE CRIMINALIZING PEOPLE ARE NOT NEW: HISTORICAL CRIMINALIZATION

* Ugly Laws
* Jim Crow Laws
* Segregation
* Violating Human Rights
* Violating Civil Rights
Harrassed, Cited or Arrested: All Homeless Respondents

- Sleeping in Public: 70%
- Sitting/Lying Down: 64%
- Drinking Alcohol/Marijuana: 53%
- Loitering: 50%
- Curfew: 48%
- Trespassing: 46%
- Using a Restroom: 37%
- Panhandling: 35%
- Jaywalking: 28%
- Receiving Food: 27%
- Sleeping in a Vehicle: 24%
- Sleeping Privately in Public Area: 23%
- Hitchhiking: 19%
- Vending Goods: 17%
- Playing Music/Performance Art: 17%
- Having a Pet: 15%
- Food Assistance Card: 13%
Do Police Ever Harass You Without a Legal Reason?

- 38% Sometimes
- 28% Frequently
- 8% Once
- 26% Never or No Response
Have Police or City Employees Ever Taken Your Belongings?

- **NO:** 39%
- **YES:** 61%
  - **ONCE:** 18%
  - **SOMETIMES:** 28%
  - **FREQUENTLY:** 15%
DHOL Survey of Denver Homeless:

“Have you ever been denied access to any of the following because you were homeless?”

Denied Access to a Bathroom?
- 83% YES
- 17% NO

Denied Access to Water?
- 63% YES
- 37% NO
A Nashville study found that costs to incarcerate homeless people added up to $823,494 in 2007 alone, with an associated $813,691 in court costs.

In Boulder, Colorado, estimates are that it costs the public $1,100 every time a homeless camping ticket is issued.

In Denver, over 3,000 tickets for five common crimes of homelessness were issued between 2010 and 2012 (panhandling, sitting/sleeping in public, violating curfew, erecting “tents,” and pedestrian in the roadway violations). The estimated incarceration cost associated with that subset of ticketed homeless who end up in jail is $165,000—just for those five crimes alone. This estimate does not include court costs or costs of police personnel hours to enforce such laws.

In Larimer County, there were over 3,000 transient and homeless bookings in the last four years, and 96,475 “inmate days” for this population. These arrests have entailed over $8 million in public costs.

According to a University of Texas study of homelessness, “each person costs the taxpayers $14,480 per year, primarily for overnight jail.”
THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING! OUR BILL IS NOT DEAD!
WE ARE BUILDING A NATIONAL MOVEMENT AND WE WOULD LOVE FOR YOU TO BE A PART OF IT!
Endorsements as of April 20, 2015

- 9to5 Colorado
- American Civil Liberties Union Colorado
- American Friends Service Committee
- Bayaud Homeless Advocacy Council
- Boulder Rights Watch
- Cities of Refuge
- Clean Bees
- Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition
- Colorado Impact
- Colorado Jobs With Justice
- Colorado Latino Forum Denver Chapter
- Colorado Progressive Coalition
- Colfax Community Network
- Communities United Against Mass Incarceration
- Denver Catholic Worker
- Denver Green Party
- Denver Homeless Out Loud
- ECO Conscious
- End All Poverty Now

- Fort Collins Homeless Coalition
- Garbage Busters
- Grand Junction Solidarity Not Charity
- Grand Valley Peace and Justice
- Harm Reduction Action Center Injection Drug User Advisory Committee
- Iliff School of Theology
- Lean Into Freedom
- Insurgent Theatre
- International Socialist Organization, Denver Branch
- IWW Denver-Boulder General Membership Branch ("We endorse not as an affirmation of the state and its perceived power, but as a stance of solidarity with the poor and workers.")
- League of Women Voters of Colorado
- Nooch Vegan Market
- Prax(us)
- Romero Theater Troupe
- Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center
- The Moth Community
- Warm Cookies of the Revolution
- Write W.A.V.E Media
Housing for People, Not for Profit!

People Before Profit

People Not Profit

People Not Profit

People Not Profits