

Janessa Riehle

In-Person Opponent to HB 2430

March 1, 2023

Kansas House Committee on Welfare Reform:

My name is Janessa Riehle and I'm in opposition of HB 2430 "Safe Cities Act".

This bill wrongfully convicts the houseless population, which is arguably the most vulnerable population in the state and country.

While the visible symptoms of homelessness are not glamorous, that does not mean that convicting the homeless will resolve the issue. We are in a desperate drought of affordable housing, mental health services, and adequate care to assist with the complexities that houseless individuals experience on a daily basis.

I have no trust in the findings of this bill, from The Cicero Institute, and I wish this committee would lean on the tremendous amount of experience and resolutions that not only social service agencies provide, but also the homeless community themselves.

This bill will absolutely do more harm than good and it is an act of violence to vote for this bill to pass. Please do not further jeopardize our community's most vulnerable population by passing this bill.

Thank you,

Janessa Riehle