



**SAN FRANCISCO LABOR COUNCIL**

**Educate. Empower.**

**Resolution to Support the California Homeless Person's Bill of Rights and Fairness Act  
(AB 5, Ammiano)**

Whereas, the United States has a long history of using malicious and discriminatory laws to keep particular people out of public spaces and the public consciousness;

Whereas, with Jim Crow, Ugly Laws, Anti-Okie Laws, Operation Wetback and Sundown Towns, people were charged with criminal behavior on the basis of their racial, economic, social, immigration or disability status;

Whereas, with poverty and unemployment reaching record numbers in California, we have seen an upsurge of such laws, targeting mainly people without homes;

Whereas, laws with nice-sounding names such as "Quality of Life," "Civil Sidewalks," "Public Commons for Everyone," and "Safer Cities" are exclusionary and discriminatory laws that target homeless people;

Whereas, just like the discriminatory laws from the past, they deny people their right to exist in local communities;

Whereas, according to a survey of 815 homeless people published by the Western Region Advocacy Project, 82 percent of people without homes have been harassed, cited or arrested for sleeping, 78 percent harassed, cited or arrested for "loitering" or being present in a public space, 77 percent harassed, cited or arrested for sitting or lying down, and 52 percent harassed, cited or arrested for "panhandling" or asking for help to secure basic human needs;

Whereas, the Western Regional Advocacy Project study also found that 83 percent of people without homes did not know of a safe place to sleep at night where they would not be arrested;

Whereas, in 2012, Rhode Island passed the nation's first statewide Homeless Bill of Rights, which will allow them to prioritize solutions that are more humane, less expensive and more successful in reducing the impact of homelessness on communities and individuals;

Whereas, California has no unified state law that defines a statewide standard protecting basic civil rights of our most vulnerable Californians and guaranteeing that they have adequate counsel when charged with a crime for existing in a public space;

Whereas, Assemblymember Tom Ammiano (D, San Francisco) has introduced "The Homeless Person's Bill of Rights and Fairness Act" that seeks to stop this growing injustice in our state and identify more sustainable and humane responses to homelessness;

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Whereas, the proposed state law also resolves to reduce the impact of homelessness on communities and individuals by diverting investment from criminalization to stabilization efforts;

Therefore Be It Resolved, the San Francisco Labor Council supports AB 5 (Ammiano) which would protect people without homes from violations of their basic human rights and the people who serve them from penalties; and


Be It Further Resolved, the San Francisco Labor Council shall send a letter supporting AB 5 to Assemblymember Ammiano; and

Be It Further Resolved, the San Francisco Labor Council shall give its endorsement to the Western Regional Advocacy Project to be listed as a supporter in campaign materials; and

Be It Finally Resolved, the San Francisco Labor Council shall send this resolution to the California Labor Federation, and the South Bay, Monterey Bay, Alameda, San Mateo, Contra Costa and North Bay Central Labor Councils for their concurrence and action.

Submitted Conny Ford, OPEIU Local 3 on February 4, 2013 and adopted by the Executive Committee of the San Francisco Labor Council on February 4, 2013.

Respectfully,



Tim Paulson  
Executive Director

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