



March 2, 2023

RE: Testimony in **Opposition to Senate Bill 142 (SB142)** of the 2023 Nevada Legislature

Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

On behalf of Republicans in the great State of Nevada, I would like to communicate our strong opposition to Senate Bill 142.

SB142, dubbed the “Homeless Bill of Rights”, would allow homeless persons to “...use and move freely in or on public places, including, without limitation, public sidewalks, government buildings, public parks and public transportation vehicles.” This is nothing more than the further Californication of Nevada. You need do no more than drive down the beaches in formerly beautiful Santa Monica to see public spaces littered with human feces and drug paraphernalia. We already see homeless drug addicts and crime spiking on our gem of the Las Vegas Strip. Is this Californication something we want to encourage? Anyone with common sense says an emphatic no.

Also worth noting is that two of the primary sponsors of this bill, Melanie Scheible and Roberta Lange, have made their addresses private from voters. The homeless should be given a list of the home addresses for every legislator that votes for this bill, which would decimate residential neighborhoods. After all, if the Democrats who support this support the right of the homeless to camp freely, charity begins at home. They should be inviting these “unhoused persons” into their neighborhoods, and telling all their neighbors about their generosity in doing so.

SB142 also puts local governments on the hook for never ending lawsuits, as language in this would allow:

“A person experiencing homelessness may bring a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction for a violation of section 3 of this act to seek any or all of the following relief: 1. Declaratory and injunctive relief. 2. Actual damages. 3. Reasonable attorney’s fees. 4. Any other legal or equitable relief that the court deems appropriate.”

You need look no further than the legal fees related to the Badlands Golf Course to realize it is a bad idea to put taxpayers on the hook for government malfeasance. Ironically, this bill is pushed by those who oppose border walls, but it fundamentally seeks to protect those who have walls around their homes in gated communities, who have a barrier to protect their sidewalks from this egress.

No homeowner or renter, except perhaps Dallas Harris, Melanie Schieble, Edgar Flores, Fabian Donate, Skip Daly, and Roberta Lange, wants homeless people in their neighborhood. They don’t want them in our parks. They want homeless people, many of whom are suffering from addictions and mental illness, to get the help they need, which is already heavily funded. This bill doesn’t do that. It gives homeless drug addicts who are currently making our parks, our streets, and our public transportation unsafe free range to come into neighborhoods and handcuffs the police from removing them. Gated, wealthy neighborhoods have the resources to stop this. This is just one more silent tax on the poor pushed by the people who want to keep them that way - Democrats. What better way to hurt generational wealth building than by eroding the value of the biggest asset most people buy - their home - by allowing neighborhoods to be turned into homeless encampments?



Finally, we would respectfully request that the members under litigation for a Constitutional violation of the separation of powers clause (Article 3, Section 1, Nevada Constitution) for their concurrent employment with government agencies while being state legislators—recuse themselves until the litigation is settled or they have fully resolved their violation of the Nevada Constitution. As this body is well aware:

The powers of the Government of the State of Nevada shall be divided into three separate departments, the Legislature, the Executive and the Judicial; and no person charged with the exercise of powers properly belonging to one of these departments shall exercise any functions, appertaining to either of the others, except in the cases expressly directed or permitted in this constitution. Nevada Const. Art. 3, §1, ¶1.

For these reasons, the Nevada Republican Party strongly opposes SB142.

Sincerely,

**Sigal Chattah**  
Republican National Committeewoman, Nevada