

# Lobby Day: February 27, 2020

Joanna Diamond + Team Captains

February 13, 2020



# Meet your Lobby Day Team Captains!

## Staff Co-Captains

- David Hunter
- Gretchen Tome
- Kat Acosta
- Kevin Feldt
- Ziad Amer
- Iris Leviner
- Regina Reed
- Haley Croney
- Tyler Gray
- Katharine Billipp
- Barbara DiPietro
- Tammy Montague
- David Dexter
- Ashley McKinnon
- Connie Angiuli

## Client Co-Captains

- Armstead Hetherington
- George Marsh-Bey
- Anthony Williams
- Theresa Lane
- Mark Council
- Percy Jones
- Richard Mayo
- Woodrow McCoy
- Athena Haniotis
- Eugene Pinkney
- Michael Hunter
- James Barnes
- Sharnay Carter
- Joe Funn
- Tony Simmons





Lobby Day 2020



Copy link

Let's get loud at Lobby Day on  
**Thursday, February 27**



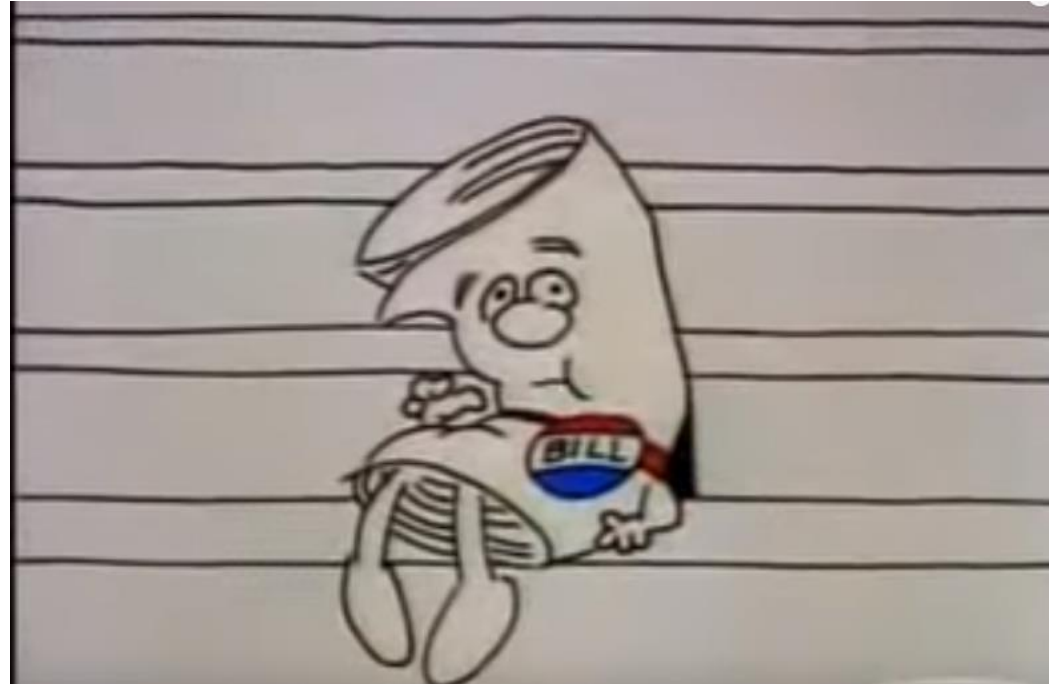
# Lobby Day Agenda

## *Maryland House of Delegates, Room 180*

- |                               |                                                                  |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>7:15-7:45 a.m.</b>         | Buses depart Baltimore County and 421 Fallsway (staggered)       |
| <b>8:15 a.m.</b>              | Registration opens; Breakfast snacks served                      |
| <b>8:30 a.m.</b>              | Buses arrive in Annapolis                                        |
| <b>9:15 a.m.</b>              | Program                                                          |
| <b>10 a.m.</b>                | Team Huddles                                                     |
| <b><i>10 a.m.-12 p.m.</i></b> | <i>Boxed lunch available</i>                                     |
| <b>10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.</b>     | Legislator Visits/Thank You Cards/Literature Drops/Poster-making |
| <b>12-1 p.m.</b>              | Rally & March                                                    |
| <b>1-2:30 p.m.</b>            | Hearings                                                         |
| <b>3 p.m.</b>                 | Buses Depart for Baltimore                                       |



# Schoolhouse Rock: How a Bill Becomes a Law



[Let's Watch!](#)



# Maryland HOME Act (SB 530/HB 231)

Housing Opportunities Made Equal

Sponsors: Sen. Smith; Del. Lierman



*“A family’s source of income should never be used as a basis to discriminate against them.”*  
– former US Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan.

## How It Helps

The HOME Act prohibits landlords and other property owners from discriminating against persons seeking housing based on their “source of income.”

*Source of income* means any lawful source of funds used in the rental or purchase of housing. It includes money from:

- any lawful employment
- any government or private assistance grant, loan, or rental assistance program
- any gift, inheritance, pension, annuity, alimony, or child support
- any sale of property.



## Five Things to Know

1. Over 16 states and the District of Columbia have similar laws.
2. Howard, Montgomery, Frederick, Prince George, Baltimore, Anne Arundel Counties in MD, the Cities of Baltimore and Annapolis have laws prohibiting source of income discrimination.
3. Unused/denied vouchers are inefficient and prolong homelessness.
4. We've been fighting for this bill for **20+ years**—but things are changing.
5. 2020 could be the year for housing justice!

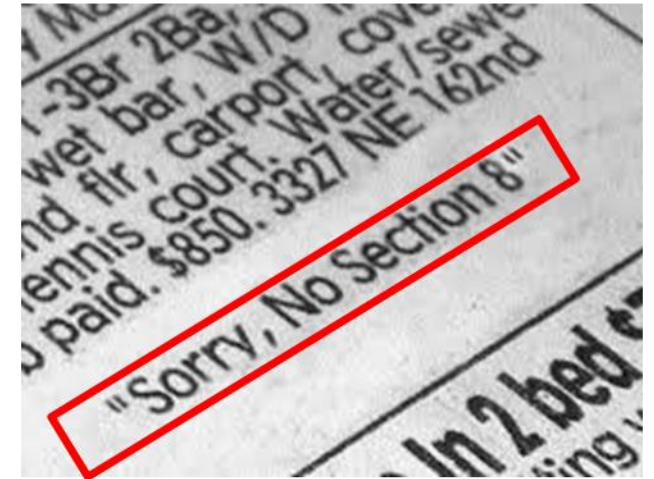
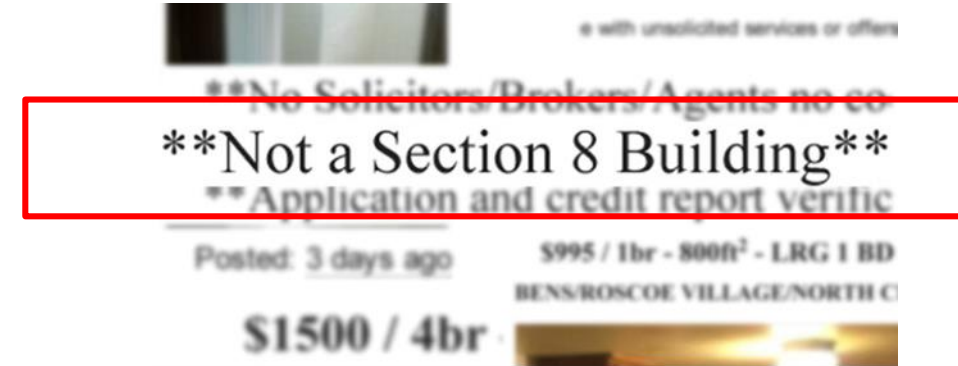




# Why We Fight!

Senior citizens, people with disabilities, single mothers, veterans, and lower wage workers are all disproportionately affected.

- **60%** of voucher households rely on SSI, social security or pensions
- **59%** of voucher households include wage or income earners
- **39%** of people who benefit from vouchers are children
- **42%** of voucher households are single mothers with children



# Common Misconceptions

## **This legislation does NOT:**

- Stop landlords from verifying source and amount of income, evaluating income stability or tenant history and suitability.
- Dictate how much landlords can charge for rent
- Prevent landlords from refusing income that comes from criminal activity
- Slow down or prevent housing and economic development.



***“Without stable shelter, everything else  
falls apart.”***

**- Matthew Desmond, author of *Evicted***



# Expungement Expansion (HB 1343)

Sponsor: Del. Mosby



*“Never be a prisoner of your past. It was just a lesson, not a life sentence.”*

# Why do we support expungement expansion?

- An estimated 1.5 million Marylanders, nearly 25% of the state's population, have a criminal record that may surface in a routine background check.
- A criminal record can serve as an insurmountable barrier to getting a job, housing and other critical resources, even if the record did not result in a conviction.
- Streamlining criminal record expungement can significantly improve opportunities for housing and employment.



# What does this bill do?

- Allows expungement of misdemeanor convictions after 3 years
- Expands expungement eligibility to some felony convictions
- Makes civil offenses/infraction convictions eligible for expungement after 3 years
- Allows expungement of convictions for second degree assault, common law battery and domestically-related crime after 5 years
- Makes invalidated warrants eligible for expungement
- Adds expungement eligibility for “probation before judgment” DUI rulings after 3 years



# Expungement Works!

We have seen firsthand the impact expungement has on the people we serve.

- *“I wish I was able to get my records expunged earlier, I would have been able to work all through the 90s and early 2000s.”* - Stewart
- *“Thanks to expungement, I got my son back.”* - Elana



# Unaccompanied Minors' Right to Consent to Shelter (HB 206/SB 207)

Sponsors: Del. Krimm; Sen. Washington



Image from Youth Empowered Society



Image from Huffington post



## The Problem

- Many youth report they are unable or unwilling to seek services due to the need for **parental consent**.
- Without these services, many are left without limited options and become **increasingly vulnerable**.

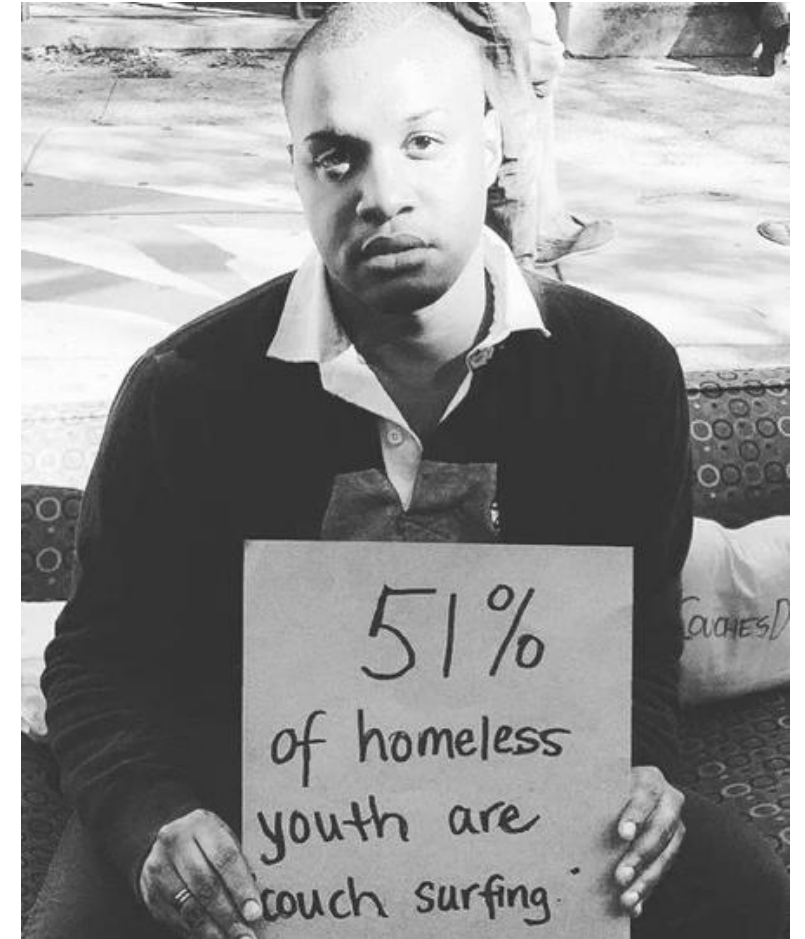


Image from Philadelphia Magazine



## Some Statistics...

- **70%** of homeless youth report experiencing some form of violence, 32% of which includes sexual assault.
- **40%** of homeless youth are victims of sex trafficking at least once in a single year.

Source: <https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/state-laws-to-support-youth-experiencing-homelessness/>



## Discussion Question

Why might it be difficult or impossible for youth to obtain parental consent?

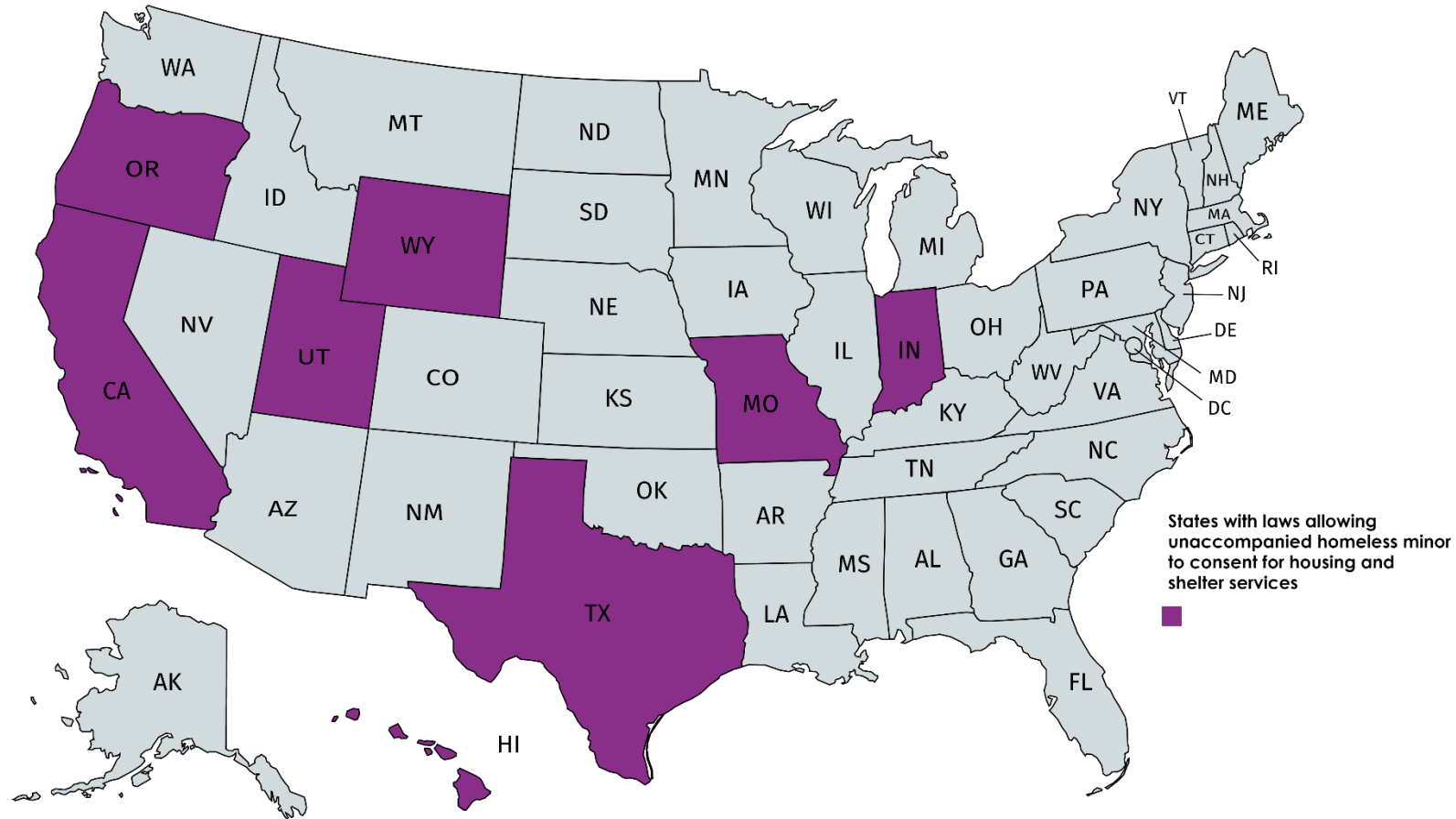


## The Solution: HB 206/SB 207

This bill allows for unaccompanied minors to consent to admission to emergency shelters or housing programs/services.



# Only eight states have passed a similar bill



Source: <https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/state-laws-to-support-youth-experiencing-homelessness/>

Created with mapchart.net ©



## So why do we support this bill?

1. Youth not connected with family face significant barriers to housing services
2. Obtaining parental consent for housing, health care or other services is not always possible for youth experiencing homelessness
3. Providing housing and supportive services to youth is a critical step toward ending their homelessness

## **4. Our mission is to end homelessness for ALL**



# Overdose Prevention Sites in Maryland (HB 464/SB 990)

Sponsor: Sen. Hettleman



*Fight for harm reduction to save lives!*

# What are Overdose Prevention Sites?

OPS are indoor spaces where people can consume their own drugs with immediate access to life saving interventions, medical care, emotional support and non-judgmental therapeutic relationships.





# Five Reasons We Fight for OPS

1. Reduce deaths from drug overdose
2. More than **2,100** people **DIED** from opioid overdose in 2018 in Maryland
3. People who use drugs are asking for an OPS
4. Consistent with the principles of **harm-reduction**
5. Evidence-based model of care
  - Reduces risk of arrests, lowers rates of infections such as HIV and Hep C, pushes back on the war on drugs and mass incarceration that disproportionately target people of color



## Five Things to Know

1. More than 150 OPS exist around the world
2. A federal judge ruled these programs do not violate the law
3. A Baltimore study estimated that a single OPS would save the health care system \$7.8 million each year
4. Arrests and incarceration don't work – addiction is a public health issue, not a criminal issue
5. This bill has been introduced for the past five years, but the issue is gaining momentum and needs our help to elevate it further



# Can't wait to see you FIRED UP on Lobby Day!

Get more Lobby Day details on the portal:  
*What Grounds Us>Advocacy*

