

Speaking Notes (Morgan Brown):
Homeless Bill of Rights: H.492
Thursday, January 30, 2020
House General, Housing and Military Affairs committee
Room 44
Vermont State House
Montpelier

- Introduction: Name, Town, person who has previously lived unhoused (aka homeless); speaking for myself only; thank chair and committee members for the opportunity to speak concerning these matters;
- Express strong support for the passage of Homeless Bill of Rights (H.492); why? How this bill could make things better ...;
- Not having permanent housing (living homeless) can be hard enough to experience, but then being treated less than human (i.e., inferior) due to one's housing status makes it even harder; we are not "the homeless", we are people, just like everyone else;
- More about my own previous experiences of living unhoused (aka homeless);
- Trauma; if someone has not been traumatized in their life beforehand, which oftentimes is the case, experiencing homelessness in itself as well as being on the receiving end of various abuse can be highly traumatizing as well;
- Housing status and discrimination in public spaces as well as places of public accommodations; H.492, Homeless Bill of Rights, sets up standards;
- If time allows, also speak to what works best to end homelessness (e.g., permanent housing, utilizing available housing vouchers, peer street outreach);
- Leave time for potential questions from committee members.