



Rhode Island State Council of Churches and the Rhode Island Bible Society

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January 12th, 2025

The Honorable Daniel McKee
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith St.
Providence, RI

re: homelessness public health crisis

Dear Governor McKee:

In partnership with the Rhode Island State Council of Churches, I am writing to ask you to **declare homelessness a public health crisis** and to instruct the **Department of Housing to release long-overdue contract payments** to service providers who provide care to Rhode Island's most vulnerable.

We are told that the greatest commandment is to, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind," and that the second is like it, "to love your neighbor as yourself."

Across Rhode Island, service providers and communities of faith are feeding, clothing, and housing our most vulnerable – and they are overwhelmed.

While these actions do not address the systematic realities that create poverty, they are urgently needed to save lives.

"Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." To take God seriously is to take God's concerns seriously.

I urge immediate action in defense of the most vulnerable among us.

Sincerely,

Name: _____
Address: _____
Email: _____