



Interim Joint Committee on Transportation
702 Capitol Ave.
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Interim Joint Commi:

We, representatives of the undersigned organizations, respectfully bring your attention to [HB 197](#), an act relating to identity documents, sponsored by Rep. Randy Bridges, and request that it be prioritized during the upcoming session.

Having a state-issued ID is a prerequisite for full participation in public life, and for too many Kentuckians experiencing homelessness, the lack of ID can be a barrier to applying for housing, employment, voting, and other support services. In 2017, an article in Pew Stateline described the situation in stark terms: “not having ID can make it virtually impossible to escape homelessness.”

In 2011, the General Assembly adopted legislation to create a low-cost state-issued ID for persons with no fixed address. Given the changes to the ID process over the last 10 years, we ask the General Assembly to revisit this issue to implement needed reforms:

- Streamline the process social service agencies use to obtain ID on behalf of their clients
- Reduce the cost on providers and people experiencing homelessness from \$10 to \$5
- Keep the cost of a replacement ID the same
- Allow persons whose operators' licenses expire while they are temporarily experiencing homelessness to renew
- Allow 16-18 year-olds who are experiencing homelessness to obtain this ID

With substantial ID process changes currently being implemented across Kentucky, the 2023 Regular Session is the ideal time to update our ID statutes concerning people who do not have an established and fixed nighttime residence of regular return, and the homeless service providers who serve them.

For more information, please contact George Eklund at the Coalition for the Homeless at geklund@louhomeless.org or 502-771-5802 or Adrienne Bush at the Homeless and Housing Coalition of Kentucky at abush@hhck.org at 502-223-1834 x101.

The undersigned organizations request that HB 197 be prioritized during the 2023 Session of the General Assembly.

**Organizational Signers (current
as of 9/14/2022):**

ACLU of Kentucky

The Beacon of Hope Emergency
Shelter

Bethany Haven, Inc

Clark County Community Services

Coalition for the Homeless

Coalition Supporting Young Adults

Community Action Council

Emergency Shelter of Northern
Kentucky

Greater Louisville Inc

Goodwill Industries of Kentucky

Home of the Innocents

Homeless and Housing Coalition of
Kentucky

Hope Center Inc

Ion Center for Violence Prevention

KCEOC Community Action
Partnership

Kentuckians for the Commonwealth

Kentucky Center for Economic Policy

Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic
Violence

Kentucky Equal Justice Center

Kentucky Voices for Health

Kentucky Youth Advocates

Lexington Rescue Mission, Inc.

Louisville Affordable Housing Trust
Fund

Louisville Metro Public Health &
Wellness

Louisville Urban League

Madison Home

Mental Health America of Kentucky

Metro United Way

Metropolitan Housing Coalition

Mountain Comprehensive Care Center

Natalie's Sisters

Room in the Inn Bowling Green

The Salvation Army

Shelter of Hope, Inc.

St. John Center

St. Vincent de Paul

The Kentucky Council of Churches

The Prisoner's Hope

United Partners for Women and
Families

United Way of Kentucky

Volunteers of America Mid-States