

October 1, 2015

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The Honorable Nikki R. Haley

Office of the Governor

1205 Pendleton Street

Columbia, South Carolina 29201

#### The Homeless Situation in South Carolina

Dear Governor Nikki Haley,

As a concerned citizen in South Carolina, there are a lot of problems that you see in the community. Some of these concerns extend to the national level none more so than the growing number of homeless individuals in our nation's cities.

A lot of cities have gone to the option of deterring the homeless from staying in areas, spikes on benches, police patrols in areas and even making it "illegal to be homeless". All of this can cause serious problems for anyone who is homeless. Our government is willing to force people out of their homes by foreclosing, but once people have been forced out of their homes there is nowhere for them to go. A massive rise in the number of homeless has occurred without any increase in the areas provided for them to go. According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's PIT survey the number of homeless has increased by nearly 30%.

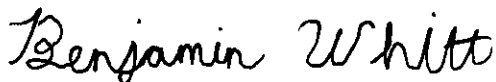
I'm not arguing that all homeless should be allowed anywhere they want, but if we are going to deter the homeless from staying in an area, it should be mandatory for a facility to be built where they can go and receive help.

According to The National Alliance to End Homelessness, being homeless is incredibly expensive. Most people would not believe this fact but between medical expenses, incarceration, and even emergency shelters, it all adds up to be very expensive. If there is a shelter where the homeless can go and get treatment for medical issues it would create a far healthier society, many people come into contact with the homeless and can get diseases from it. If all homeless are in one place, a state funded shelter that can provide medical services, they will be far healthier because they can pay for medical attention.

I propose that a law be created that creates homeless shelters in every city with 1,000 beds and the ability to provide medical attention. How do you pay for it though? If you have each homeless person that visits the "station" pay a \$15 fee upon entering then it will attract enough of the homeless people in an area to that shelter that it should pay for itself.

This will create a place for the homeless to go, it will also provide enough medical attention that the homeless will be able to use any money that they do get to get off the street instead of pay for all of their bills. I believe that creating a homeless "station" where medical attention and a place to sleep is provided would be an incredible way to solve the "homeless issue" as it has been called.

Most Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Benjamin Whitt". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and larger than the others.

Benjamin Whitt