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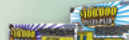
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The Berkshire Eagle (<http://www.berkshireeagle.com>)

EDITORIALS (/EDITORIALS)

HOT TOPICS: [The Healthiest States of 2015 \(http://www.berkshireeagle.com/latestnews/ci_29368577/healthiest-states-2015\)](http://www.berkshireeagle.com/latestnews/ci_29368577/healthiest-states-2015)

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Our Opinion: Pass bill protecting rights of homeless

The Berkshire Eagle

POSTED: 01/10/2016 03:35:58 PM EST | UPDATED: ABOUT 21 HOURS AGO

Like the heroin epidemic (see editorial above), homelessness is not only a growing problem in the state it is one that can only be addressed if stereotypes are shattered.

Homelessness, like heroin addiction, is perceived as an urban problem when it in fact is everywhere, including the Berkshires. Like heroin addiction, it is not confined to anyone if unfortunate enough.

Representative William "Smitty" Pignatelli, a Lenox Democrat, has filed legislation that will assure that the rights of the homeless are protected. It was suggested to I enjoyed success in recent years. (Eagle, January 3).

The bill assures the homeless their rights to unemployment benefits and access to medical care and public spaces and buildings. It protects the right to privacy and others.

The concept of the homeless conjures certain simplistic and cliched mental images. Someone who gets laid off and/or loses their house or apartment and temporary rights are protected, it will be easier for he or she to regain independence. Representative Pignatelli hopes his bill will become law this year, as do we.

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NEXT ARTICLE IN NEWS (/NEWS)

The Healthiest States of 2015

(http://www.berkshireeagle.com/latestnews/ci_29368577/healthiest-states-2015?source=JPopUp)

This Week's Circulars

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