

**Testimony in Support of An Act to Provide Identification to Homeless Youth and Families
(House Bill 2737/Senate Bill 1906)
James Shearer, Homeless Empowerment Project
November 13, 2017**

As someone who has been homeless, it is vital that you have an ID. It is an important resource that must be available. You cannot get a job, enroll in some services, get a bank account, or even obtain important documents such as a Social Security card, birth certificate, etc. It is equally difficult to obtain an ID when you are on the street. Imagine a family living in a car who can't get help from a family shelter because the parents can't legally prove who they are. Not just that, they can't even feed their children because without an ID some food banks won't serve you. These are the obstacles homeless people face without proper identification and there are so many others. As I said, an ID is vital.

James Shearer
Board President
Homeless Empowerment Project