Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



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Robert Harris PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER Franklin County I want to first and foremost thank Senator Baker and Senator Solobay for working on the problems of homelessness among our States Veterans.

This is not a problem restricted to Pennsylvania it is nationwide. In PA we have shelters and other areas that will assist homeless Veterans if you live in one of the major cities or large population counties. However homelessness is not restricted to these areas and the rural areas are starting to see higher numbers of homeless Veterans with nowhere for them to go.

In rural areas there are no emergency shelters so if they have no family or friends that will take them in they must sleep in the cold and go hungry

Although they may find somewhere to stay for a night or two by definition they are still homeless.

With the President's proposed budget and cuts to the military I feel that we are going to see a rise in homelessness across the nation as many of these young men and women joined the military so they would have a job, income and a place to stay.

In Warren County there are many vacant building sitting on the State Hospital Grounds.

These buildings are already owned by the State of Pennsylvania this would be in my opinion an excellent use of resources to help with the homeless issues in the Northwestern part of the State.

I again wish to thank you for the opportunity to give testimony in this most worthy cause.

Sincerely,

Edgar B Burris Jr. President