

Thank you Madame Chair! Hello committee-members, my name is Nathan Noble, I am a student at The University of Nevada Reno, a senator for my college, and for several months last fall I lived without a home. I lived precariously, on the good-will of my connections, and some nights I truly did not know where to go. Everything became that much more difficult, and my physical and mental health took a sharp decline. I am far from the only one who's had this experience, and for me it was temporary. Others aren't so lucky. UNR's on-campus housing prices are up almost 27 percent over the last decade and off-campus rent prices are at an all-time high. And this happened as the same people who constantly pay lip service to education and to students, stood idly by while we were denied the resources we need to learn. It's no wonder that so many of us have to choose between paying tuition and paying for a roof over our heads. Some of us couch-surf with friends, some of us live in our cars, some don't have those options or anywhere else to go. This is not an issue that anyone has the luxury of ignoring. By needlessly condemning our peers and our neighbors to live on the streets, we weaken the fabric of community as a whole. This is a completely avoidable problem. Rent controls, shelters, communal housing projects; There are plenty of solutions to this problem. Are any of them free? Of course not, nothing is free. But instead of thinking of that cost as a burden, think of it as an investment in the future of Nevada. Because if you do nothing, this won't just go away. You can't make the unhoused disappear with force. Policing does not solve homelessness, affordable housing does. This is a crisis, not of the homeless, but of the system that fails them. So I implore you now, for the strength of our state and the lives of the people you're elected to serve: address this crisis now.