



REQUEST FOR COVERAGE

What: Rhode Island is 1st in the Nation!

- ☛ **PHOTO OPPORTUNITY:** Hundreds Come to the State House to Celebrate the Passage of the 1st Homeless Bill of Rights in the Country

When: Wednesday, June 27, 2012
1:30 pm

Where: State House Plaza (Smith Street entrance)
State House
Providence, RI

Details:

- (1) Rhode Island becomes the 1st state in the country to pass a Homeless Bill of Rights formally banning discrimination against Rhode Islanders experiencing homelessness and affirming their equal access to jobs, housing and services.
- (2) Rhode Island bucks a national trend among cities and towns whose response to growing numbers of homeless has been to criminalize homelessness by outlawing behaviors such as eating and sleeping in public spaces.
- (3) The Homeless Bill of Rights is an important foundation for *Opening Doors Rhode Island*, the state's plan to end homelessness, which states that "there are no 'homeless people' but rather people who have lost their homes and deserve to be treated with dignity and respect."

Scheduled to speak:

- John Joyce, RI Homeless Advocacy Project
- Senator John J. Tassoni, District 22-Smithfield, North Smithfield
- Heather Johnson, National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty
- Jim Ryczek, Coalition Executive Director

Contact: Karen Jeffreys (RICH) at 721-5685 x 24
Cell phone: 954-1510