



Position Paper on SB-621/AB-631

submitted by

Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards (WALHDAB)

Wisconsin Public Health Association (WPHA)

The Wisconsin Public Health Association (WPHA) and the Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards (WALHDAB) support innovative solutions to providing resources for individuals experiencing homelessness. Provisions of this bill do protect the public's health, including providing a safe place to live outdoors, with appropriate water and sanitation facilities. However, the criminal ramifications of homelessness included in this bill do not support health and wellness of individuals who live unsheltered, whether by choice or out of necessity. Additionally, the bill creates an unfunded mandate for the Department of Administration to provide mental health and substance use evaluations, collect data, provide potable water and sanitation services, and manage public safety at these sites.