

Public Comment  
Sullivan County Legislature  
Executive Committee  
Thursday, September 18, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

Good morning.

I am Martha Scoppa from Liberty.

I am also a member of the Senior Legislative Action Committee.

I am very concerned about the delay in applying for the Gateway Housing grant and the very real possibility that you may miss this year's funding and that the funding may not be accessible in the future. We are talking about \$8-million dollars. \$8-million dollars. Yet month after month this Legislature cannot agree on a shelter location. The grant is site-specific which means that an application will not be accepted without a location. Your decision against the Pittaluga Drive location was made in April and it is now September. What is taking so long? Why is this not a priority? Why are you allowing this money and this amazing opportunity to slip through your fingers?

We are talking about constructing a facility that would provide not only a place to sleep, but also essential services such as nutritious meals, case management, and access to medical and mental health resources. You have a plan to partner with the Honor organization to coordinate the care at the facility and provide security, so this will be a wonderful opportunity for people to transition from un-housed to housed.

But this Legislature may miss out. In a big way. You will miss out on \$8-million dollars. You will miss out helping people in need. You will miss out on building the first shelter in our county.

What is stopping this Legislature from submitting the application and being granted the \$8 million? Have you no compassion for the homeless? Don't you want to see people get the help they need? Don't you want to cut the enormous cost of placing people in hotels for emergency housing, a cost that keeps increasing?

What is going on in your heads that you are not jumping at this grant opportunity? Maybe you are afraid of homeless people? Maybe you think all homeless people are trouble-makers and criminals? Maybe you just don't want a shelter in your district? It is mind-boggling that the nine of you are not working hard to make this Gateway Housing a reality. Agree on a location, please, and complete the grant application now.

The most expensive option is doing nothing.

Thank you.

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