

Submitter: Kerry Duff

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

While seemingly compassionate, this bill does not protect our most vulnerable population, one which cannot vote and which is always forgotten when it comes to homeless issues: children. It would make it even more difficult to remove camps around schools and along safe routes to schools, which is the situation my children face right now. In the last couple of years, they have put up with rampant drug use, screaming aggressive individuals throwing cans, a naked man on the playground, and garbage and needles. My son was even chased by a homeless man high on meth.

I live in the inner NW. Our houses have no big yards in front. When someone sets up a tent, they are literally ten feet from my family's living room. In the last year, we have had tents around our house, fires around the house, and, during the holidays, a homeless man, again on meth, attacked our family in our home.

I urge you to think very carefully about the implications of this bill for families who also deserve safety and privacy. Most of all, I ask you to consider what this will mean for schools and playgrounds when it is already difficult to get encampments removed.