

Submitter: Patrick Theiss

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

I am writing in opposition to the Right to Rest Act. House Bill 3501. I recognize that we are in a housing crisis and also a homelessness crisis in this state but I do not believe that accepting unsanctioned camping and allowing people to live in squalid living conditions is humane or good for the housed members of the community. Unsanctioned camping has many detrimental impacts to the people living there and also living near the unsanctioned camps. While I do understand showing empathy and understanding toward those experiencing homelessness I do believe that by allowing unsanctioned camping to exist in public spaces is inhumane to all. We need more housing and while the housing is being prioritized we need to focus on large sanctioned camp sites that can provide services and support to those less fortunate living on our streets. With those sanctioned camp sites we need a way to incentivize individuals that are living in unsanctioned areas to move into said sanctioned camps and at the most extreme end of that we need to retain the ability to deem unsanctioned camping on public land is not in accordance to the law.

Thank you,

Patrick Theiss