

Submitter: Joe Santiago

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed "Right to rest" bill. While I understand the intention behind this bill, I believe that it will have serious consequences for public safety and will increase crime in our communities.

Allowing individuals to sleep in public spaces and sidewalks will create a dangerous environment for both the homeless and the general public. It will provide cover for criminals to engage in illegal activities such as drug use, theft, and assault. Furthermore, it will make it difficult for law enforcement to monitor these activities and respond to emergency situations promptly.

Research has shown that communities that have implemented similar laws have seen a significant increase in crime rates. Homelessness is a complex issue that requires comprehensive solutions. Allowing individuals to sleep in public spaces will only exacerbate the problem and create a cycle of dependency and crime.

I urge you to consider the negative consequences of this bill and find alternative solutions to address the issue of homelessness. We need to work together to find effective ways to help those in need while also ensuring public safety.

My wife and I are new homeowners in South East Portland and the homelessness situation has really been the only downside so far, but it's getting so bad that we're on the verge of giving up and moving.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,