

Submitter: Mary Luthy

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

Dear Representative,

The public pays for public facilities, parks, and streets which are now being used by some homeless individuals for their own purposes often prohibiting others from access. It is often not safe to use public parks. The parks are being degraded by trash and people who destroy fences and benches to use as firewood. I am afraid to ride my bike on the Springwater Corridor.

I favor group camps with social services. I favor shelters similar to Amsterdam where it is illegal to camp or use drugs in public. Their streets are clean and safe. People are leaving urban areas because of government mishandling of our crisis. Do NOT decriminalize homelessness. The homeless need a pathway to full participation in civic life and they cannot be allowed to take over public facilities.

Elizabeth Luthy