

Submitter: Holly Stokes

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

This bill allowing for homeless people to camp on private property is dangerous. I'll never forget being spooked in my own backyard shortly after moving into my home by a man claiming to live in a shed on my property. There was no evidence of anyone living in the shed but still it's unnerving to know that a stranger has free access to your property. Now for the government to tell you that this person has just as much rights to the property as you the mortgage paying and tax paying homeowner. When does this end? When is the government going to admit that they have no real solution as to how to fix the homeless epidemic?

As a child my family experienced homelessness so I have an understanding and have compassion for these families but I also understand that giving unlimited access to private property to those whom potentially are suffering from mental health and/or drug issues is not safe or healthy for anyone involved. The focus needs to be on mental health and drug addiction services to be able to give these people a foot up when it comes to recovery and leading a normal life.