

Submitter: Z S
On Behalf Of: APTCA and downtown community
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure: HB3501

Someone argued and said “No one was born and said ‘I want to be homeless when I grow up’”, yet here we are! I understand that different life circumstances may lead folks to be houseless, but most of what we’ve been trying to manage and live with these days are filthy criminals who keep destroying our environment by catching trees on fire, blowing up vehicles or gas tanks and by throwing trash everywhere. We are empathetic people and have a safe rest village in our front yard across the street. This is supposed to be “safe” for those underprivileged but the way other camps pop up around our properties does not feel safe for the village, or for us who pay property taxes. Drug deals are very convenient!

I am learning that the saying “if you build it, they will come” is true. We are enabling houselessness and allowing people with a tent to not pay property taxes, not pay for garbage disposal, water, etc.

What separates humans from animals in the wild is civilization. If our urban society is not going to have delineation between the wild and civilization, then why am I working hard and paying taxes to support and pay for homeless benefits? I might as well join them!

I want my children and children of the schools around the home I am still paying for, to learn that mooching off of other taxpayers is NOT OK. Let’s stop normalizing houseless behavior and give the unfortunate people without a home open spaces away from urban businesses, homes and schools.