

Submitter: Rachel Pirot

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

This bill appears to legalize camping and homeless encampments at all times in public spaces. I am opposed to this because homeless camps in public parks and other public spaces intended for community use often create a hostile atmosphere, rendering the use of public parks unsuitable for other members of the community. Even after temporary encampments are gone, the garbage and effluent left behind leave our public spaces in a state where they are not able to be enjoyed by the community. I can no longer visit my local parks in the summer or allow my child to play there due to the garbage and unsanitary conditions left behind by homeless encampments. I support spending tax dollars on addressing homelessness, but enabling encampments in all public spaces is not any kind of real solution and not an avenue I can support.