

Submitter: Leslie Comnes

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

Honorable Representatives -

As a homeowner who lives across the street from a public park that has had countless houseless campers these last three years, I urge you to kill the so-called Right to Rest Act. While my heart aches for those who do not have permanent housing, this measure will only heighten conflicts between homeowners and the unhoused.

Many, if not most, of the individuals camping near us have had addiction issues that make it difficult for them to be good neighbors. We've been screamed at, threatened with knives and sticks, and have had to endure piles of trash, human feces, and other unsanitary and unsightly conditions. We've observed drug dealing, car chop-shopping and other illegal activities just steps from our front door.

Enabling individuals to camp wherever they choose - without consequence for not being responsible neighbors - will only increase tensions between the housed and unhoused without making any progress toward solving the state's homelessness crisis.

Instead of this well-meaning but misguided bill, I urge you to support sanctioned camping in designated areas, where houseless individuals can be safe and have access to the services they need.

Thank you!