

Submitter: Claire Young

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

I understand that many feel it is callous and inhumane to not want to allow people sleeping on the streets, but to me it is honestly far more compassionate to want to aid people in figuring out safer and cleaner spaces to reside, which this bill does not aid in in any way. The more we are allowing the degradation of our neighborhoods, the deeper the wounds grow within our community, the wider the gaps between people feeling able to assist in caring for their neighbors. Many regions are inundated with clean-up tasks from people living tentside beneath bridges, along waterways, at playgrounds... These are not living spaces, and the consequences of these arrangements are in polluting our waterways, accidental fires that easily spread to buildings, defecation on sidewalks, needles found in areas where children play, etc. We bring people back into the fold of society through loving boundaries, not free-for-alls. Those of us opposed to this bill are not opposed to finding ways to help people return to society who want to do so. But we are frustrated that spaces meant for all are being taken over by the few, and this bill will further perpetuate that reality.