

Submitter: Allan Rosenow

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

I live in Lents and have frequently dealt with the effects of tent camps and van/RV parking in my neighborhood. While I have sympathy for the individuals struggling with homelessness, the detrimental effects of these camps is not tenable for the safety of our communities. The idea behind this legislation is to allow the unhoused to set up a dignified place to live, but the reality is that the camps become havens for drug use, criminal activity, fire hazards, and generally dangerous elements around our homes and schools. I fear for the safety of my children. I worry about the fires that are started so close to our homes. I have to deal with intruders wandering into my yard to steal things or get high. I should not have to worry about my kids finding used needles when they go out to play in their own backyard.

The solutions for our homeless epidemic start much higher upstream with issues of wage equality, access to healthcare, and holding pharmaceutical corporations accountable for the opioid crisis. Our efforts should go to legislation that addresses the causes of these problems, not toward placing the burden of their effects on average citizens trying to live their lives in an increasingly declining society.