

I oppose HB 3501, the “Right to Rest” bill, because it does not address the nature of their homelessness, and when you don’t address what is at the center of the problem, you cannot solve or improve upon it, in other words, this does not end or decrease homelessness. Instead it impacts everyone else, creating health and safety concerns, and encouraging enmity between people groups, none of which overworked and understaffed law enforcement agencies can respond to.

I do not think that all homeless people are criminals or drug addicts, but there is a high percentage of both within the greater homeless population; they are a consequence of the poor policy making of the past, and this bill only adds to the failure, while the numbers of mentally ill within the homeless population continue to grow.

You have a citizenry made up of many people who work hard to provide not only for themselves and their families, but often reach out to support viable programs to help those less fortunate. Protect those who are part of the solution rather than exposing them to situations that endanger their loved ones and decrease their property values. We are losing a lot of solid citizens to other states, due to the laws that negatively reinforce model behavior and prioritize the desires of people who choose, in many cases, to not even take care of themselves.

Respectfully,

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