

Submitter: Cassie Wilson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

The right to rest is a very needed bill. Taxpayer dollars are wasted on sweeping people from place to place around the region and only causes further harm to our most vulnerable community members. We need to free up those resources to actually get people sheltered and given access to services they need to get them into a stable situation. Why do we let our leaders waste time and resources pushing people around and treating them as completely inferior? This is one of those issues that I've struggled to wrap my brain around since I was a kid. The idea that it's illegal to exist in public when you literally have no where else to go is completely absurd to me. And this impacts all of us. Lack of benches, no public restrooms, hostile architecture...We're all better off when we're ALL allowed to rest and have our needs met.

It's a bummer that this bill won't be going anywhere this year, but I hope that similar legislation will be considered in the future. We need to use every tool possible to address the housing and homelessness crisis, including allowing people to simply exist in public regardless of their housing status.