

Dear House Committee On Housing,

I am a concerned citizen writing in support for HB 3124 to increase the time that a written notice must be posted before the removal of houseless individuals from established camping sites. Poverty and homelessness is exhausting and continually traumatizing, and I am asking you to reduce the harm the state inflicts on these vulnerable individuals. We have a long ways to go to reduce homelessness. I am asking that you support this small step to increase the wellbeing of these individuals which reverberates into them having a fighting chance. Displacing houseless individuals repeatedly increases illness, this is always true but certainly so during an airborne pandemic. Displacing houseless individuals is also proven to increase physical and sexual violence, even more so for marginalized genders. Displacement creates isolation and exacerbates mental health issues. Displacement means that houseless individuals lose their established communities that provide some protection.

I am asking you to increase the time that a written notice must be posted before the removal of houseless individuals from an established camping site so that these individuals are allowed more time to plan their next course of action, so that they may have more time to find a new situation of relative safety and shelter.

Thank you,
Sam Wrigglesworth