

Submitter: G [REDACTED] Gant

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

I am writing to express my opposition to the provision that outlines the rights of persons experiencing homelessness in our state. While I understand the importance of protecting the rights of all individuals, this provision could have unintended consequences and negatively impact our communities. I am not opposed to creative solutions to homelessness, including city-sanctioned designated camping areas. I live on [REDACTED], and we already have encampments that routinely pop up near [REDACTED] Park, which is connected to the elementary school and is near the [REDACTED]. I am not unfamiliar with this problem as it is very visible and real in my neighborhood. However, a free-for-all would likely only exacerbate the issues we're facing.

Allowing persons experiencing homelessness to use public spaces for temporary residence could create safety and hygiene concerns for other community members who use these spaces. Additionally, it could lead to the accumulation of trash and other unsanitary conditions, which could harm the environment and pose a health risk to everyone.

Furthermore, this provision could discourage businesses from investing in and improving our communities, as it would make it more difficult for them to maintain a safe and welcoming environment for their customers.

For these reasons, I urge you to reconsider the provision and find alternative solutions that prioritize the safety and well-being of all members of our community.