

Submitter: Steve M

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

I get the desire to stick up for the voiceless. I want our elected officials to be empathetic. But at this point, after so many years of this crisis getting worse and worse, and so many horror stories of what people have had to deal with when encampments move into their neighborhoods, how can our legislators still have such a dewy eyed view on our homeless population that they think the real problem, which requires government intervention, is that people are being too mean to them? I truly don't understand how anyone could live here and maintain that perspective.

At this point, it's becoming clear that no help is going to come for the people who are impacted by the anti social behavior of our homeless community. Our leadership, from the city to the county to the state is useless at best, and many seem to be actively opposed to any kind of boundary or reasonable set of rules.

Meanwhile, in Washington, Vancouver set up their safe rest village in a month, Seattle has implemented regular sweeps that have the city feeling much cleaner and safer, and Bellingham criminalized the consumption of drugs in public. A more sane, competent and realistic approach to this problem is right there across the Columbia, but none of it is available to us.