

Submitter: Adam Holt

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

As someone that has experienced extended homelessness and worked hard to become a homeowner, I strongly oppose this bill.

In today's society, we must look through a lens of equity. Those in support of this bill may see it as equity for the homeless population, however it creates an inequity for those that choose to use shared public spaces for how they were intended to be used.

A couple examples are - If I were to want to use a pavilion at a park for a birthday party, I currently need to reserve and possibly pay a fee for its use. If I want to use a park I can only do so during the time that park is open for use.

This bill will create inequities in that it allows only those experiencing homelessness to live how they want in public spaces while all others do not. I strongly support creating places of community housing, building housing both temporary and permanent, and doing what is needed to support the homeless community but not at the extent of excluding all those that are housed from using public places as they were intended.

Wherever the homeless congregate in camps without the required support systems and infrastructure needed to help them break the cycle of homelessness, the environment is consistently what suffers the burden more than any person or group of people. Lack of sanitation and trash disposal are the primary causes; allowing people to camp wherever they choose will undoubtedly be detrimental to our waterways, public land spaces, and even to those living in unsanctioned camps.

Please consider equity for all and the environment as you choose to not allow this bill to pass.