

Submitter: Kamran Aghaie

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

Dear Honorable Members of Legislation,

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed new legislation, the Right to Rest, which would allow homeless individuals to set up tents anywhere they please. While I understand that this legislation is intended to provide a measure of support for those who are experiencing homelessness, I strongly believe that it would be unsafe, unsanitary, and would enable criminal activity to flourish in our towns and cities.

Firstly, allowing homeless individuals to set up tents anywhere would create a significant safety risk. Homeless encampments often lack basic safety features, such as fire extinguishers or safe electrical connections, putting both the homeless individuals themselves and the surrounding community at risk. These camps will block our walkways and even prevent disabled people to move around. This goes against the ADA . Furthermore, these encampments often attract violent and criminal individuals, putting the safety of the general public in danger.

Secondly, the lack of sanitation in homeless encampments is a significant concern. Without access to basic hygiene facilities, such as restrooms or running water, homeless individuals and those living in their vicinity are at risk of contracting serious diseases. Furthermore, encampments often become a hotbed for pests and rodents, which can spread disease and create unsanitary conditions.

Lastly, enabling homeless individuals to set up tents anywhere would provide cover for criminal activity. Criminals could easily blend into these encampments, using them as a base of operations for illegal activities such as drug trafficking or theft. This would create an environment of lawlessness and would put innocent individuals at risk.

In conclusion, while I understand that the Right to Rest legislation is intended to provide support for those experiencing homelessness, I strongly urge you to reconsider this proposal. Allowing homeless individuals to set up tents anywhere would create a significant safety risk, promote unsanitary living conditions, and enable criminal activity to flourish in our towns and cities.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Kamran Aghaie