

Submitter: Jim Jeffery

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

Our public spaces should be a safe place for the public. Our parks should remain a safe place to bring your family to get away from the grind, relax in a bit of nature, and enjoy some free time. Our parks have been reserved, set aside from development, I cannot claim it as my own and build a house in it. It's for the public to enjoy temporarily.

Similarly, sidewalks are intended to be a safe place to traverse from point A to point B. Homeless encampments create a hazard in these walkways, they become a bottleneck and require pedestrians to come within striking distance of individuals who may be mentally ill and often high on drugs. Our sidewalks need to be a safe place for our children to walk to the library. Ask yourself if you would let your child walk to the library? If she makes it there unscathed, is the library going to be a safe place for her to visit?

What of businesses? If homeless create a wall of tents in front of a business, customers will not want to risk approaching. They will not feel safe. Business will suffer, and business owners will move somewhere else.

The homeless do not pay taxes.

The homeless do not pay taxes.

Helping the homeless sounds nice. It feels good to do something nice for the unfortunate. Are we helping the homeless get on their feet, or are we making it EASIER to BE homeless. Making it easier, removes the incentive to get off their rears, get a job, work, and contribute to society. Many of these folks just want to collect free food, free clothing, free tents, and not have to do anything.

HB 3501 will give the homeless the power to become entrenched, emboldened, invasive, and makes the taxpayer powerless to keep our public spaces safe.