

Submitter: Mary Stone

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

This is Not ok. It's just not ok.

This bill would allow "Persons experiencing homelessness be permitted to use public spaces in the same manner as any other person without discrimination based on their housing status;"

Last I checked the public has to pay to use picnic areas, camping spots - etc. Whether its paying at the camping spot or paying through taxes. We have to pay.

"A person experiencing homelessness has a privacy interest and a reasonable expectation of privacy in any property belonging to the person, regardless of whether the property is located in a public space;"

They have a right to privacy in a public space... "without being subject to harassment, citation or arrest by law enforcement officers, public or private security personnel or employees of local governments." .. AND the courts can award \$1000 for harassment... Not of the 'public' being harassed by homeless people but by homeless people being harassed by the public.. by being in public spaces... that the rest of us are paying for.. regardless of actions. The government isn't helping businesses who are being harassed by homeless or helping with the loss of ecommerce from the destruction left behind. Nor finding a way for patrons to feel safe visiting businesses.

I agree - everyone has rights. But, if homeless people want to be left alone - don't be in public spaces. If they want to get help for housing - get help for housing... The "Get help for housing" is not supposed to be the government making it ok for camping in public spots.

Instead, the government should be spending money converting the many abandoned commercial office buildings to low income housing. And lets take this a step further.. its TRANSITIONAL housing.. It is NOT meant to be forever. It is NOT meant to be legacy. Help find jobs. If they need education for a better job, show them the steps to get it. Teach them financial accountability.

Just like a minimum wage job is not meant to be a career. Just like state assistance (welfare) is not meant to be legacy. We've had DECADES of band aid fixes. We've had DECADES of wasted funds. We've had DECADES of taking from the middle class.

If a homeless person does not WANT to be in a transitional program they are not homeless. They are a transient.

Hand up people... not hand out!