

Submitter: Kejehara Sprenger

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

I feel like this bill could create far more chaos than it's worth. Businesses and especially public parks could become campgrounds, and Parks especially could potentially become uninhabitable by residents due to being filled with campers. Although there is language in the bill to prohibit obstruction of human or vehicle traffic, there is also language that says no one can be harassed or arrested for camping in public. I feel like public campers might still try defy any orders to move from places where they are obstructing traffic and possibly take legal action and try to sue for harassment, using this bill as their cover, which would create all sorts of unnecessary tie ups in our legal and court systems. I know how sue-crazy people can be. I think that instead of enabling people to continue engaging in behavior in which they've already been engaging for who knows how long, we should be focusing more on providing resources to help with any needed rehab and to help get people out of the houseless situations they're in and back into some permanent housing instead of camping on the streets. People absolutely have a right to exist, but that doesn't mean they should be allowed to just set up house almost wherever they please. I believe people also have a right to privacy, which I don't feel is a reasonable feasible expectation if they are in an exposed public space.