

Submitter: Richard Battaglia

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

This Bill is a very BAD idea, similar to the decriminalization of small amounts of illegal drugs which has been shown to have added to the homeless crisis, it will result in a greater blight on our cities which are just starting to recover. While I agree that people experiencing homelessness need access to services and habitation but further enabling this behavior will only result in our cities being even slower to recover, if they ever do, and create the potential for violent interactions. Allowing activates and behavior for a Homeless person that would otherwise be unacceptable and/or illegal for others is definitely NOT the solution, where does it stop? Should anyone just be allowed to walk around public naked? or carry a gun because they don't have a home or any other place to store it?

More investment in more projects such as low income housing and transforming the Wapato Detention facility into what essentially is a modern day 'poor farm' similar to what the Edgefield was a century ago are where attention and resources should be. Instead dozens of low income projects in the Metro area are being held up or delayed for a variety of reasons.