

Submitter: Shirley Erice

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

I am very much opposed to the newly proposed "right to rest" bill. Homelessness is an issue that has had millions and millions of dollars thrown at it with little to no visible impact. Something different has to be done to impact those in the situation and the rest of society as well. In my experience, when you allow people to receive something for free, with no skin in the game whatsoever, it has no value or meaning to them and is a total waste of time, effort, and money on behalf of the giver. It is also a tremendous disservice to the receiver since it teaches them that NOTHING is required of them. It is too much to ask of them to only camp in designated and safe areas? To poop in the port a potty and not on the sidewalk? To put trash in the dumpster and not throw it on the ground?

I am a nurse of 38 years. I understand addiction, mental illness, poverty, marginalized communities and the multitude of issues and concerns in these groups. Society has rules and regulations that must be abided by for the greater good. If one is incarcerated, there are rules and regulations that must be abided by! If one is admitted to a mental health hospital or addiction treatment facility, again, there are rules and regulations that must be abided by. Same for schools, apartment buildings, jobs, attendance at concerts or sporting events, riding public transportation, the list is limitless.

The key that has been missing in every attempt to address the issue is requiring respect of others property and rights! Our community is asked, and now with this proposed bill possibly forced, to allow total lack of respect for the public spaces and our own property and rights so that this population can "camp" wherever they choose with zero rules or regulations. That is insanity!!! We have allowed them to do whatever they want, where ever they want already and it was a huge failure. Let's try helping them by teaching them that all members of society have to contribute by respecting each other by following basic respect, rules and requirements!

PLEASE do not allow common sense to once again fail to enter into these decisions.  
PLEASE DO NOT push this bill through. There is a better way to address this issue!