

Submitter: Annabelle Morgan

On Behalf Of: self

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB603

Chair Kayse Jama and committee members. My name is Annabelle Morgan. I am writing in opposition to SB603. CRIPPLING. That is an adjective that aptly describes SB 603. It gives a hand out rather than a hand up to individuals experiencing homelessness, are at risk of homelessness, are severely rent burdened or earn at or below 60 percent of area median income. There is no accountability as to how this money will be spent. Instead, it would be more beneficial to use the \$1000/month to provide places where individuals can be housed and receive mental health and drug and alcohol abuse treatments plus education and job training that will enable them to break the bonds of poverty and to become self-reliant, independent citizens with pride in their personal accomplishments as a productive member of society. People within this income category already receive food stamps, cell phones, free internet, and shelter and food resources, but they are not educated on how to make the most of these, which is also crippling their ability to thrive. Just as an illness or disease cannot be cured by tossing money at it, a diagnosis is needed so proper prescription can alleviate and/or cure these. Our USA was not built by people sitting back and taking handouts, but by those who worked hard to better their circumstances. Jobs such as the CCC were welcomed by those who might have otherwise been standing in food lines during the Great Depression. Today, there are jobs available but only about 62% of possible workers are employed, partially due to the fact that the government is handing out money with no accountability and education on how to make it go as far as possible. It was instilled in me as I grew up with parents who had experienced the Depression and a father who fought in WWII, that it is through hard work and education that one can become self-sufficient. When my parents married, they lived in a house they were building, sat on boxes, used wood they cut and split for heating and cooking. My father drove a log truck, logged in the snowy woods in the 50's as well as managed some cattle, had a milk cow for milk products, and my mom and he had a garden, canning and freezing produce, fish and other wildlife. Instead of the attitude that is being presently perpetuated by policies such as those in this bill, they did not ask for government handouts and used every penny they EARNED to provide for their family, saved for children's college ed. and took pride in resulting delayed gratification. In addition, the legislature should be looking into spending that money to assist schools with funding the resources and services needed by schools to address the behavioral problems, whether due to home instability, drug and alcohol syndrome, early traumas, or mental, physical or other emotional issues. More counselors, special education teachers and Program Assistants are needed to assist teachers in addressing these issues. A decent family wage paid is needed. I know for a fact of at least one small school where they have not been able to fill positions due to several issues, but also since they get more pay

at a fast food place than for being a Program Assistant. How many of you would like to be in a classroom with behavioral problems such as being hit or bit for \$15/hour? In order to get the help students and teachers need to overcome social and economic barriers to their future, support of staff and administrators in schools is a necessity! Do not cripple individuals by handing out money which will not solve their problems and increases their dependence on government. You may see this as a crutch, but the crutch will break and drive the person again to the ground. Instead, fund programs that enable independence, education, resources for school intervention at the earliest ages to increase success for future generations to be self-sufficient. Socialism and Communism has not worked in other countries to instill self-reliance and won't work here!!!