

To Whom it may concern:  
Re: HB 2367/HB3115

As a nurse of 24 years, having myself been homeless for more than a year during my life and having consistently given time and resources to benefit those less fortunate than myself, I am no stranger to empathy and compassion. In fact it is a cornerstone of my career. If an individual that works or attends school in my community has needs that they themselves cannot meet, I would absolutely direct help and resources their way.

However in my interpretation, HB2367/HB3115 is compassion that is misdirected. *unmeasured generosity often leads to dependence* and the end result of dependence is harm to everyone involved. Untargeted compassionate giving is done as much for the benefit of the giver as the receiver and ultimately creates a draw for individuals less motivated toward the benefit of the community.

Homelessness a huge issue; much bigger than one State and a symptom of the income inequality and economic polarization that we as a nation have allowed to permeate our country. It's also, however, the end result of a widespread work ethic that has an end goal of perpetual vacation rather than the satisfaction of a job well done. The stories and elements leading to a person being without a permanent residence are as varied as the individuals themselves and blanket solutions need careful examination.

Targeted generosity balanced with *compassionate enforcement* is a better way to proceed. Removing or impairing our officials and law enforcement officers' ability to compassionately interact in the best interest of individuals *as well as* communities is definitively counterproductive. Non-homeless individuals have as much a right to public spaces as the homeless do and one person's protected rights (right to free speech, 'right to rest', etc.) end at the point where another person's protected rights become infringed.



Attached is a picture taken a few days ago barely north of my community. The trash heap is approximately 15'x3' high and the apparently abandoned tent contains (among other things) human waste, making it a hazmat that is costly and time/labor intensive to remove. This scene is reproduced on a regular and frequent basis where I live.

This *IS* the future of my community... without careful *direction* of compassion coupled with empathetic enforcement. It is the present for Portland, Seattle and many other communities. The tent, those clothes, propane bottles and other items so generously given – if they (or the community) don't have value to the recipient – will become trash for residents and taxpayers to deal with. A person enabled to take up residence in public spaces without limits will develop inappropriate 'ownership' of that space and will become a nuisance and a health and safety issue for the entire community as well as themselves.

If a homeless ‘neighbor’ were to treat our public space with respect; managing their trash and human waste appropriately, I would be happy to share our public space with them, especially during our current widespread health crisis. However, this is frequently not the case and the outcome is trash piles and hazmat that create a significant health and safety issue for everyone involved.

Please don’t support HB2367/HB3115; we absolutely do not want widespread reproduction of the results we’ve seen in Portland, Seattle and others. It isn’t good for anyone concerned.

Thank you for your consideration,

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