

Submitter: Kelley E

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

As much as I disagree with routine sweeps as a primary method of solving the issues surrounding homelessness in our community, this bill is not the answer. This would serve only to render city agencies even less effective in preserving safety for those of us who also live and work in areas with problem encampments.

Some neighborhoods have already become practically unlivable due to their takeover by camps with garbage and hazardous waste piling up, aggressive behavior towards homeowners, and rising criminal activity. This legislation leaves residents and businesses with no recourse, and undermines the establishment of safe rest areas currently in development at significant cost.

What we need is expanded access to mental health resources and treatment for substance abuse, not simply enabling problem behaviors further.