

Submitter: William Weisner

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

Please do not pass this poorly conceived, incomplete measure. Some persons Oregon have experienced homelessness as a result of economic hardship -- which is involuntary on their part. The measure does not mention nor does it accommodate for citizens that are homeless as a result of mental illness. The words "mental illness" do not appear in the measure at all. Mental illness is not a choice either. How could these legislators blindly ignore that issue?

The measure does not accommodate for citizens who are homeless because of intentional drug use and does not consider citizens who choose to refuse shelter when offered. This measure enables, encourages and empowers both of those illegal activities. The measure seems designed to worsen the homeless problem in our state, like an already infected sore that will fester and grow larger. For that group of illegal campers, our state needs more sweeps not less.

A measure that would require campers to leave the street immediately whenever a shelter bed is available would have overwhelming support of the community. Provide those people with drug treatment and mental health counseling and Oregon will see improvement in the homeless situation.

Build shelters, provide health services, spend the tax money we sent you and clear the streets ASAP. Get to work.