

Submitter: Ted Esparza

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

This bill is misguided and detrimental to the housed and homeless populations. While I generally sympathize with people experiencing homelessness, I cannot in good faith support this bill. The situation with the houseless population in Portland has become dangerous and untenable. The criminality that houselessness brings has become more than an eyesore and general nuisance, these people are not safe to themselves or others in the community. The reality of the situation is that the local government has not properly addressed the houseless crisis and further permitting camping on our streets will only worsen the issue. The state has seemingly forgotten the millions of other people who live here and place the needs of a small population who for the most part are refusing help and are doing nothing to improve their situation above everyone else. We have tried being permissive and understanding of the plight of these people but that has only made the situation worse, they have taken advantage of our compassion. This bill will put further strain on working people and increase tensions between the housed and the unhoused. Violence within and from the houseless community goes unaddressed and unpunished while working people are left to deal with the fallout. This bill will only deepen the sense of "otherness" and I have no doubt will endanger the houseless community further. Please stop this ridiculous bill. It does not help.