

Submitter: John Y

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

This bill will only make it more difficult to enforce the already-poorly-enforced laws that are routinely violated by houseless individuals in Portland. Public land in Portland has already been defacto ceded to the tent encampments and refuse piles of service-resistant houseless individuals. This has created serious threats to public safety by allowing criminal elements to conglomerate into large encampments, threatening those around them with violence, and making illicit activities like drug dealing, prostitution, and car & bike theft to operate out in the open with no apparent fear of reprisal. Burglary and vandalism are rampant, affecting residents and businesses alike. Extending further legal protection to the unhoused only reduces their incentives to seek and accept services. This bill will do nothing but provide cover to criminal elements and create the potential for criminals to use the legal system against property owners and tenants. The intention behind this bill may be noble, but there is far too much potential for it to be abused and make life harder than it already is for those of us with homes and businesses. Of all the legislative actions that could be taken to address the surging crime wave and economic degradation of Oregon's major cities, this one is nearly certain to do far more harm than good.