

Submitter: Toni McQuilken

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

While I am strongly sympathetic to those who have lost their housing, this is, frankly, a terrible idea. As more businesses are forced to flee downtown, and more residents and tourists flee because it no longer feels safe just to walk down the street, passing a law that makes it even more difficult for police and officials to intervene seems like it's just asking to make the problem worse. I get wanting to help these people, and I empathize with the hardships they face. Allowing them to camp wherever they want, litter, leave needles and excrement wherever they wish, harass whomever they wish, and generally make Portland and surrounding neighborhoods feel unsafe and unpleasant for the rest of us is not the solution to the problem. I want to feel safe when I walk around Portland again. I want to feel pride when I have friends and family visit my beautiful city again. I want to see my property values going up, instead of down. I don't want to continue to lose what makes Portland great day by day because we're making it harder and harder to actually have any consequences for the homeless population that treats our city as a sewer, junkyard, and personal playground for graffiti, vandalism, and drugs. There is no one magic bullet to dealing with homelessness and the challenges it has brought as it has ballooned over the past few years, but making it harder to address those problems doesn't actually solve anything. Please vote no to this resolution.