

Submitter: Ludmila Feitser

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

When Portland, OR decriminalized homeless encampments on sidewalks, homelessness and crime exploded in Portland. After several years of that failed policy the city government is finally trying to real it back from the failed policy. I work in downtown Portland and have been harassed, chased, and screamed at by homeless individuals that are clearly in mental crisis. Without the needed additional support like mental health services, housing, etc these individuals will not be able to get the real help they need. Allowing them to create encampments in public places will result in more of the same, more camps next to freeways, both entrances and exits. Causing real safety issues for both drivers and themselves. Please vote AGAINST this house bill and instead work on getting more housing approved. We spent millions of dollars in taxes to set up more permanent housing and safe villages but those are coming to fruition too slowly. Instead of decriminalizing encampments on public spaces, use our resources and time to remove roadblocks to build semi-permanent housing that would actually help homeless individuals, especially if there are mental and health services on-site! Thank you