

Submitter: Eric Dorband

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

To whom it may concern,

The homeless situation in Portland is out of control, and it is mainly due to drug use. This city and state needs to understand what enabling means. As someone familiar with addiction, we are at the point where we need to seriously look at what policies we are enacting and what incentives those policies set for people who have significant drug addiction issues.

I view myself as a progressive/on the left, however my 3 years as a homeowner in this city have been eye-opening. People wasting away in dilapidated RVs or tents, causing significant damage to personal and public property, either in search of goods to fund further drug usage or from acting out during drug-fueled psychosis. It at times feels like we are living in an open-air mental asylum and the people in charge have no idea how serious the issue is.

One aspect of being progressive is having compassion for people. What is compassionate about making it easier to live on the street while consuming drugs until you inevitably kill yourself or hurt someone else? An element of the political left in this city and state has essentially turned into enablers while thinking they are acting out of compassion. All they are doing is hurting the citizens of this city and the drug addicts themselves by not expecting accountability. We are actively assisting in these people's descent further into addiction and death.

Please, speak with former addicts. Enabling leads only to death and further suffering. It's time this state learns the concept of Tough Love.