

Submitter: Rebecca Hill

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

This measure is lunacy. Instead of pushing people to live on the streets, we should be incenting them to live above them. Mental health care and affordable housing are in short supply. What is pervasive are the abuses suffered by neighborhoods where homeless encampments flourish: fires, feces, trash, needles, crime - these are all rampant in the areas where homeless citizens sleep. Children are stepping over excrement and finding syringes. Businesses are losing customers due to harassment. The areas surrounding these camps are piled high with stolen grocery carts and trash. Incidents of intimidation, car-jackings and pedestrian fatalities are becoming more pervasive. This is not helping the homeless - it is further victimizing them and the neighborhoods they frequent. Our public spaces were never intended to become asylums for people living in squalor. We pay taxes for services to protect, treat and rehabilitate, not lower the bar further. It is sheer lunacy to even entertain this measure. Do better, Oregon.