

Submitter: Krista Vogel

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

I oppose HB3501, a measure that would move the state of Oregon further in the wrong direction.

As a Southeast Portland voter and homeowner, I recognize the complexity of the homeless issue. I can even appreciate our city's prior attempts (however flawed) to lessen the burden on houseless folks, particularly in the pandemic years. However, it is severely misguided to believe that allowing homeless individuals to live freely and undisturbed in public spaces provides any sort of safe and dignified life for them – or for the homeowners and community members in the area. We continue to see our beautiful city become overrun by broken-down RVs lining the streets and tents on hillsides and sidewalks, surrounded by trash. Meanwhile, we continue to question our personal safety when pursuing everyday activities like taking a walk through our own neighborhoods. It's heartbreaking, and I am begging for action, for the funding we've allocated to addressing homelessness in our city and state to be put to use in creating dignified living conditions, treatment access, and supportive resources that provide real pathways out of homelessness. I am also begging for our government leadership to re-establish safety and cleanliness in the community I love so much.

HB3501 is the wrong answer for Oregon, as it does nothing to curb homelessness and solve the myriad factors that contribute to it. Further, I believe it would erode our public safety and sanitation past the breaking point we've already reached. I urge you to vote no on HB3501, and instead focus on creating long-term solutions for Oregonians.