

Submitter: Donna Torres

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

I strongly OPPOSE this bill for all of Oregon.

Having recently visited the city of St. Louis, MO, I rode with several residents via Uber who expressed that they felt their city was dirty and problematic. Riding around in St. Louis, I did not see ANY, let me repeat this, ZERO tents or homeless on the streets of this city, let alone there was no trash on the streets, and I witnessed police officers on many corners together, keeping the streets safe. Compare this to Portland, practically the entire city, blocks and blocks of homeless encampments, trash, needles litter this once beautiful city. They no longer sweep the streets, needles are all over the place, garbage cans are broken and left open, glass from car windows that have been broken out is all over the streets, parks are strewn with litter, they willfully neglect their duties as elected officials to keep the city safe and clean.

The allowance of public "resting" or should I say camping has caused the slow decay of once a beautiful city. How many businesses need to move from these areas before whoever made this bill gets a grip on the reality that if you continue to allow public camping on the streets of our cities, this is what the city will become (a public camping area full of trash, needles, lawlessness, etc... littering the city). Businesses have been moving out of Portland due to the mess, the crime, etc.. No one wants to visit downtown, it is no longer a safe environment for anyone. Walmart - gone, Starbucks - gone, Unitus Community Credit Union - gone, KinderCare - gone,,,, There are more, these are just a few. This bill needs to stop dead in its tracks. It solves nothing but promotes these problems to continue and worsen.