

Submitter: Percy Neyra

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

Dear House Committee on Housing and Homelessness,

It is not kind or empathetic to allow people with mental illness and drug addiction to live an undignified life on the streets. It's not kind to those unfortunate enough to find themselves on the streets and it is not kind to homeowners with and without children. This measure threatens to make matters worse for our cities. This measure is irresponsible. This measure transfers the responsibility to homeowners to deal with the crime and filth resulting from unsanctioned camping. Portland and other cities in Oregon are already suffering immensely due to failed measures taken by the legislature in 2020 and 2021. This additional step is completely in the wrong direction. This measure punishes hard working homeowners, renters, families and individuals who are doing their very best at keeping our cities going despite the immense challenges facing us. Our tax dollars should not be spent this way. Our citizens should not have to be expected to sue and spend their days in court addressing the shortcomings of our city leaders. Our streets and public spaces including parks, sidewalks, trails and highway infrastructure were not built for unsanctioned camping by drug addicts and criminals. Our state and local governments should be focusing on providing special shelter facilities equipped with professional drug addiction recovery services and mental health treatment. Those who are experiencing homelessness due to drug addiction and mental health issues should be mandated to move to state run facilities where they can find the help they need under supervision and guidance from professionals until they can be ready to rejoin society in a productive capacity. It is almost certain that those experiencing homelessness not due to drug addiction or mental illnesses would be happy to go to a shelter that is not overwhelmed with drug addicts and mentally ill people. Those who are mandated to move to state run facilities and refuse to do so, should be given 2 opportunities and then be sent to jail. If we don't have the capacity to serve every one of those experiencing drug addiction and mental health issues, unfortunately the only option for the state is to remand them to jail facilities until the state is able to expand capacity. Folks need to know that cities in Oregon are not open air drug markets. The intent of Measure 110 was never to turn Oregon cities into open air drug markets. Citizens did not vote for this. This new measure threatens to send our cities deeper into a state of disrepair, crime and low quality of life. This measure threatens to further send the state into an economic slump. Please do not pass this legislation. A better step in the right direction would be to overturn Measure 110. The state was not ready for this law and it won't be ready for it until it has enough facilities to do the work we now know that needs to be done to help people facing drug addiction and mental illness. It will take years before the state is ready and hard

working citizens cannot afford to wait that long.  
Thank you.