

Submitter: Joycelyn Helfrich

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

Allowing the homeless to set up their tent city, anywhere they like, is nonsense. Although sympathetic to what they are living through, we cannot have tents all over the City of Portland, or any area of the state. We need a solution, not a band aid and that is what this is. Tents in the towns and cities contributes to excess litter, disease (due to lack of hygienic facilities), drug use, etc. If you were to open designated camping areas where the homeless could have a place to wash clothes, throw trash away, access services, then you could actually help the person as a whole. The idea of being allowed to sue for 1K is idiotic. #1 they do not have the filing fees necessary to sue a state that is already so backed up in the judicial system, they will never get in front of a judge. If they were awarded 1K, they may use it on drugs or alcohol, not items they actually need to get off the streets. If they are allowed to sue, or if we imposed a fine, why not put that money towards a fund to actually HELP the homeless as a whole.