

Submitter: Reid Ten Kley

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

Hello, we've lived in Portland (inner city) from 2002 - 2019 and generally loved it, but the city really began feeling scary in 2019 and has now descended past anarchy into general apathy as it regards the average working-class citizen.

Specifically, consider the overwhelming amount of governmental attention focused on the homeless population. Approximately 40% of all fire department call-outs are related to homeless encampments and an equivalent for our police force. This is such a disproportionate use of our hard-earned tax dollars. We need solutions that END camping in public spaces and instead force people into the societal cogs of our great machine because the weight of non-conformity is beyond what we can bear as a city. Rather than a bill decriminalizing camping in public spaces, how about a bill requiring a clean drug test every week in order to access social services?

I digress. Presently, we still operate our business in the inner city. We operate within a collective space where tolerance and creativity are paramount and despite our progressive mindsets, we find it difficult to operate with the pervasive homeless encampments that encircle our building, occupy the sidewalks, interfere with customer parking, and generally make us feel unsafe about coming to and leaving our workplace.

Please do NOT support this measure which while seeming compassionate on its surface, would in fact expose our beloved city to further infection and systemic death.