

Submitter: Heather Siegfried

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

I oppose this measure because changing the constitution to decriminalize sleeping on public property will not help houseless people find housing. This bill will lead to more property damage, violence and more businesses leaving Oregon. Multnomah county has to have a way to clear out homeless camps that cause harm to the neighborhoods and communities they are in. I work at a school where students have been harassed and approached to buy drugs from people living in a camp near the park by our school. Police sometimes need to get involved and this measure will make their jobs harder to do. Sweeps are traumatizing, but I am against this measure because it will make it harder to get rid of camps that cause problems for residents living in the less affluent neighborhoods and the more marginalized communities. I feel like this measure is tone deaf. Everyone has a right to clean, safe, and fair housing and camping in broken down trailers, and tents do not meet the basic standards for people in Oregon.