

Submitter: Halvor Tweto

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

As a Portland homeowner, husband, and father, I vehemently oppose HB 3501. My family moved away from the Laurelhurst Park area in Portland precisely because of the unsanctioned camping that occurs there. Needles and tents on playgrounds and soccer fields, human feces near walkways, aggressive dogs, plumes of inhaled drugs, piles of garbage, and sharp increases in neighborhood crime were the new normal, and we were both saddened and relieved to leave Multnomah County. The political leadership in Portland and in this state is failing to get ahead of this homelessness crisis. The result is an endless cycle of poorly conceived and poorly executed last-minute solutions that cause more harm to the city and ALL of its residents. Enabling people to live in tents is not an acceptable, safe, healthy, or humane solution to this crisis. For the love of God, think bigger and stop these ridiculous and cheap coping measures that are masked as efforts to recognize the rights of the disadvantaged. Tents won't cut it. I have voted for democrats my entire life, but I will no longer vote for politicians who support terrible ideas such as this or Measure 110, which was another obvious step away from real solutions in the name of rights recognition. Crime, homelessness, and overdoses are all up! Who are we voting for? This isn't a Covid legacy, this is a leadership issue, and ideas like HB 3501 are emblematic of an advancing decay in effective governance. Please stop these counterproductive proposals and try to get some real solutions in place. Otherwise, people will start electing leaders who propose unconscionable and inhumane solutions that are at least practical and effective.