

Submitter: Gina Henderson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

This bill seems directly counter to the current effort underway in Portland to mitigate the public and environmental safety impacts of unsanctioned camping, part of which involves establishing managed campgrounds with access to hygiene and mental health/ substance abuse services for people experiencing homelessness. From what I have read and heard, the overwhelming consensus of residential and commercial residents/voters is that unsanctioned camping must end as soon as possible, and it seems obvious that the only way this will happen is if, once there are safer options available, the destructive options are made as difficult as possible, which may necessitate making unsanctioned camping a criminal offense. By eliminating that option, this bill would likely result in leaving the most difficult to reach and serve individuals out in the public by enabling their destructive behavior, a disservice to both the community and those individuals.