

Submitter: Karen Gilmore

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

I am an Oregon voter living in Portland. Our state and city are in a downward spiral due to rampant homelessness and associated squatting, squalor, crime, graffiti, open drug use, and mental health crises. HB 3501 will make matters worse, just when we are starting to get on the right track.

Of course homeless people need support and services. And we have the money and will to provide those services. Portland's plan to offer sanctioned camping, with services, is one way we can help homeless people immediately without waiting for affordable supportive housing to be built. It's a win-win for everyone. Homeless people get services; the housed get their neighborhoods back.

Making camping anywhere/everywhere legal is a step backwards in helping homeless people and the residents/businesses that pay taxes to support them.

And, handing out \$1000 to people (SB 603) who probably have addiction or mental health issues is absurd. There are plenty of resources to help them that don't enable drug use and continued unsanctioned camping.

Please wise up and start helping solve these issues rather than making them worse and harder to solve. Our state needs to be on the same page. HB 3501 is very much off the page. So stop wasting taxpayer dollars (as well as our collective effort and time) on frivolous bills such as this.