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On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

One of the great things about our democracy is that each state and/or municipality has some license to individually experiment with what may be the best way to govern. Right now every state in the union is looking at Oregon and learning exactly what not to do in order to avoid a catastrophic homelessness crisis. I was initially on board when it came to providing more support and rights to the homeless. But the homeless people we have now are not the same people we were dealing with 20 years ago. When I was a kid homeless people were mostly nice and not scary at all. They stayed out of the way as best they could and didn't trash their surroundings. Our homeless population has become malignant and entitled. Every well intentioned step we take has seemed to only make things worse. It's time to admit that and try something different.

If you had a family member who was hooked on drugs and refused to get help, would you allow them to live in your house while continuing to use drugs, literally destroying your home, threatening your safety and defecating wherever they pleased? This is not the homeless population that is asking for a helping hand we grew up with. This is a homeless population that only cares to do whatever serves their addiction. They have no interest in being members of our society and seem to resent all of us who do.

We have tried being nice for a very long time. I wanted it to work. But it's not. We're not helping these people by letting them take advantage of our kindness. It's time to stop being so nice.