

Submitter: Daniel Tattersfield

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

Please take a tough stance and stay the course with the policy of not allowing tents on sidewalks and populated public spaces and NOT distributing tents and tarps in the city of Portland. It's tough love, but it's got to be done! Our family car window was smashed while my son had taken it to shop near MLK to pick up some gear (smashed for the 3rd time...I don't even bother to report it anymore) My son's school backpack with his computer was stolen. As it was an Apple computer, he tracked it with his phone to a tent on the sidewalk about 3 blocks away. He called the police several times to help him retrieve it but they did not respond. I advised my son to just let it go. He's 18 years old and now has an attitude issue toward the police. That's a shame, because it's not their fault. There are now literally thousands of drug addicts scattered across Portland streets living in tents on sidewalks and often times stealing to support themselves. If this lifestyle is facilitated and encouraged with free tents, free tent camping and general tolerance, the situation will become even more overwhelming. There are alternatives to living in tents on streets, it often involves the need to become drug-free and that can only happen when a person takes himself off or is taken off the street. It's tough love, but it's got to be done!

Thank you for listening,