

Submitter: Diana Martinez

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

As a resident and taxpayer of Portland, I strongly believe that safety should be a top priority for our city. While I understand the sentiment behind the bill to decriminalize camping in public places, I have seen firsthand the negative consequences of allowing unregulated camping in our community.

Encampments that are left unchecked can quickly turn into piles of trash and drug abuse, posing a serious risk to public health and safety. They often attract crime and make it difficult for law-abiding citizens to use public spaces. In addition, the presence of encampments can lead to decreased property values and an overall decline in the quality of life in affected neighborhoods.

I believe that the city needs to focus on providing safe and adequate housing and services for those experiencing homelessness, rather than simply decriminalizing camping. By providing resources such as mental health services, addiction treatment, and job training programs, we can help individuals get back on their feet and become productive members of society.

In addition, enforcing existing laws and regulations on camping in public places is crucial for maintaining public safety and hygiene. We need to work together as a community to address this issue, and decriminalizing camping is not the solution. By prioritizing safety and providing necessary resources, we can make our city a better and more livable place for all residents.