

Submitter: Mathew White

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

I cannot in good conscience support this bill as a citizen of the state of Oregon, unless and until there are appropriate programs in place to assist housing for those deserving of it, mental help for those who need and rehabilitation for those addicted to drugs and abandoned by the state to suffer.

This bill would be acceptable other than the fact that by allowing people to legally camp wherever they so choose you are impacting the safety and, I hate to say it, but the property values of all of those in Oregon who could be impacted by mobile meth labs, RV's ill-suited to permanent being used as housing and the trash and garbage that has been proven to be left behind by those claiming to camp.

Unfortunately, it is on display in Portland, Gresham and other areas that are experiencing the homeless crisis first-hand and being forced to deal with an out-of-control situation that does not appear to have been taken seriously by the state or local governments.

It started with the decriminalizing of all drugs knowing full well that services were not in place to handle the onslaught of addicts that would flood the state and is, in large part, a direct cause of the homeless situation which this bill does nothing to rectify, other than to kick the can down the road one more time.

Outline a plan of action which highlights timelines and involvement of Federal, State and Local governments to establish the required services to actually reduce the level of homelessness and its direct causes and perhaps, I'll reconsider.