

Submitter: Taylor Thompson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

As a resident of Eugene, I am very opposed to this legislation.

During COVID we had a sprawling homeless encampment under the Washington Jefferson street bridge that was costly, unsanitary and dangerous. There were physical assaults, sexual assaults, overdoses, drug dealing and a murder. At that point residents had enough and demanded the camp be cleared. The taxpayers then had to pay to have the topsoil removed from the entire park and it has been fenced off for public use for more than a year as the landscaping becomes reestablished. The same would happen again if camping in public spaces is fully decriminalized except now there would be no mechanism to clear dangerous camps.

Furthermore, for homes that have a parking strip on the street which are technically in the right of way of the City, that would mean that the homeowner/tenant could be sued for asking a person to move from from their property?!? Ludicrous.

Please help us clean up our cities and continue to support routes to REMOVE people from homelessness (shelter funding, mental health facilities, CAHOOTS model of response, conestoga huts, community homes, housing development/in-fill, fair wages, etc). Letting mentally ill people and drug addicts do whatever with no repercussions will only further add to the decline of our wonderful cities while doing nothing to address the root causes of homelessness.

Life long Oregonian and Democrat in opposition to HB 3501.