

Submitter: Kevin Shehab

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

I am not in favor of HB 3501.

The state of Oregon, and in particular the city of Portland, have faced an unprecedented challenge of the triple crises of homelessness, drug addiction, and inadequate mental health support. The results can be seen on our streets. As someone who has witnessed first-hand the dramatic loss of quality of life in Portland over the past decade (from blocked public right of ways and degraded natural environments such as river-ways to homeless-encampment-related property crimes and arson), this law seems extremely misguided. The goal of all of our elected officials should be to turn the corner on our massive challenges (ending homelessness and providing both mental health and drug addiction services to all that need it) and to not make things worse with such a misguided policy. I urge the committee to not forward this bill.

Please look at the Built for Zero framework and methodology for ideas on better ways to tackle these various crises, and not forward a new law that will only enable more people to live on the streets in dangerous and inhumane conditions. See <https://community.solutions/built-for-zero/methodology/>
Ron Pernick