

Submitter: Thomas Boyles

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

Implementing HB3501 will permanently ensure that we never solve homelessness in Oregon. Businesses will close. The downtowns will permanently empty. Jobs will disappear. Local economies will crater. People who have the means will leave in even greater droves than they already are. If you think I'm being dramatic, read up on the history the economic collapses of Gary, Indiana or Detroit, Michigan. Given our current conditions, we're right on the cusp of such an event and the fallout from HB3501 could easily push us over.

The tents, trash, and crime are the biggest problems plaguing our cities. They get worse every month because our politicians, police and the courts do absolutely nothing to address them. No one feels safe. People are furious. Businesses are constantly closing because they can't survive another break-in. We're 5th in the nation for car theft. Homeless fires account for almost half of the total fire calls. We have to train our kids to watch for used needles at the playground so they don't accidentally catch HIV. There was even shooting caught on camera by an actual news crew and the police did nothing:

<https://www.kgw.com/article/news/local/homeless/kgw-witnesses-shooting-portland-homeless-camp/283-ffafd21c-63bb-4eb0-b18d-ac50defe27b4>

Everyone knows you get away with literal murder here because there is zero accountability. That fact is wildly unjust to the other 99.25% of us who are just trying to live honest lives.

There is absolutely no justification for giving an extreme set of rights such as this to a few individuals at such profound expense to the rest of us. I cannot understand, having experienced this waking nightmare on a daily basis, how anyone would want to encourage it, much less punish the people who would speak out against it. The homeless condition here is one of the most inhumane things I've ever seen and the fact that anyone would seek to further enable it is utterly monstrous. The people of this state deserve better. I strongly encourage anyone reading this to contact their own representatives, and especially the sponsors Farrah Chaichi and Khanh Pham, and let them know how incredibly backward and irreversibly destructive HB3501 will be for all Oregon.