

Submitter: KEVIN SHANLEY

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

Please do NOT support this misguided effort to help the unhoused.

It only serves to avoid the real challenge of getting people into housing and off the streets with supportive training and mental and behavioral health services.

In a perverse way this bill legitimizes and institutionalizes unsafe, unhealthy, unsanitary living conditions for thousands of people in Oregon cities which is exactly what we should NOT be doing.

Please DO support efforts to create new affordable housing and programs to get unhoused people into trauma-informed shelters and housing along with the counseling, training and mental and behavioral support services frequently needed by the unhoused. Please DO support efforts to train and pay for skilled support providers, and please DO support structural systems that can track the long-term success of programs, and pivot them towards the programs that demonstrate the highest rates of success. This needs immediate solutions but it is also a long-haul effort that may take decades to repair the damages done by the defunding of state and federal programs that society used to have to help those most in need.