

Submitter: Elisabeth Richard

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

NO on HB 3501 - and repeal I moved to Portland in 2015, our community was thriving but also compassionate. Not perfect but still a sunny-disposition place to live. I own 2 properties in the Portland metro area. One of these is in Old Town. I make a point of keeping the rent low and dwelling in good condition at all times as I believe in being a responsible party and rented most of my life.

I am a liberal, first generation immigrant who started from nothing and understand the benefits and responsibilities of our system. One without the other does not work - here the streets of Portland are showing great neglect despite mounting tax bills that I would be happy to pay if the services were keeping our street safe and clean. It is a disgrace to let people live in the streets when we have so much wealth. The will to change is lacking and the speed not reflective of the issue, the damaged lives. I can only imagine the despair of working in the police department - it is a losing proposition: what good person would want that job, what person can sustain a system where their work is for nothing - they arrest, the DA release, no power. Policing is a nightmare job in these conditions and citizens are left with the worst situation: both indigents and paying citizens.

I don't want to move but may have to. It breaks my heart to be part of this Portland environment - I am enabling people living in unfit conditions, enabling drug use but not being to vote for sensible laws that would offer a way to get violent people off the streets before they kill, or others who should not live with rats, cold, drugs, mental issues. They belong in proper facilities. We have not had a week without a break in, our building is constantly targeted. As one of the HOA board members, on some days I spend more time on safety than working on my business. I vote no on extending any rights to allow 'right to rest' and enabling the current lawlessness, lack of urgency to solve the housing and mental crisis. NO, NO, enough. If you want an city where the only place for people is to live on the street, more power to you but that is not where my taxes are going not where my conscience is. Terrible, misguided, and frankly insane, HB 3501 is not compassionate. It just perpetuates the lack of urgency in fixing the problems in a human way. It also is a danger to most of Portland who is being destroyed, pilfered, and going into a state of chaos. It is unsafe, unsanitary, and a terrible reflection on government taking the easy way out. NO, NO, enough is enough. Fix the issues don't sweep these under the proverbial rug. This is not HOW!!!!