

Submitter: Vanessa Todd Holmes

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

The title of this bill is a complete misnomer and is intentionally misleading. 'Resting' is not what this bill protects, it solidifies drug abuse, violence and unsafe public spaces within our beautiful city. Fact: one-third of the Portland houseless population is mentally ill, addicted, or both. This bill entrenches that Portland will become a houseless magnet for those in other states and this behavior will become rampant. It will destroy this city.

More important than 'resting', residents have the right to safety, the right to drug free environments for the children and families, the right to hygienic public spaces. How is it that the 6,000 houseless population (most not even from this city!) get to decide what our city becomes? What about the other 800,000 residents? What are you doing to protect us from the houseless population that is known to commit crime, theft, vandalize businesses, monopolize hospital, police & fire resources through their blatant disregard for the city?

This bill goes too far in the wrong direction. You want to protect the houseless, great. But go back to the drawing board and write a bill that also protects residents.