

Submitter: Kim Goldthwaite

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

Dear City Council Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the camping of homeless individuals in any public space, green space near school grounds and parks in Portland, Oregon. As a homeowner in this community, I am concerned about the health risks associated with allowing homeless individuals to camp in these areas.

First and foremost, allowing homeless individuals to camp in public spaces poses a significant health risk to both the homeless population and the general public. Without proper sanitation facilities, trash removal, and access to clean water, the risk of disease transmission is extremely high. In addition, the presence of large numbers of homeless individuals in public spaces can lead to increased crime, drug use, and other illegal activities that further endanger the health and safety of our community.

Moreover, camping in green spaces near school grounds and parks can create an unsafe environment for children and families. Parents and children may feel afraid or uncomfortable using public spaces when large numbers of homeless individuals are present, and the risk of exposure to drug use and other illicit activities is heightened.

I understand the importance of finding a solution to the homeless crisis in our city, but I do not believe that allowing camping in public spaces, green spaces near school grounds and parks is the answer. Instead, I urge the City Council to explore alternative solutions that provide safe and stable housing options for our homeless population while preserving the health and safety of our community.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,
Kim Goldthwaite