

Submitter: Jennifer Ruwart

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

While I firmly believe we need to address the housing and drug crisis in Portland (and beyond), the state in which some of our citizens are living is inhumane for them and dangerous for the residents living around them in these encampments.

My son (nor my husband and I) should not have to observe the level of filth, intoxication, theft, and general lawlessness we experienced every day for months as we dropped him at school (Bensen at the Marshall campus), went to the grocery store (SE Powell), walked our dog (SE Foster).

Last November drivers of a stolen car on meth totaled their car and a neighbor's car plus took out a maple tree outside our house and then took off on foot, leaving their destruction behind.

In December an intoxicated woman living in her car crashed into another neighbor's car, got belligerent when someone tried to help her, and then took off on foot, leaving her destruction behind.

A drunk homeless man tried to break into our house at 5 am in the morning two Sundays ago.

A man with mental issues chased after us with an ax on NE Glisan when we parked next to his tent because our car was "too noisy."

Homeless individuals regularly sit around the picnic table at SE Holgate and SE Foster doing drugs in the open.

The list goes on sadly. If Oregon and Portland do not address this crisis in a way that brings everyone up versus what you are currently doing, which is to bring everyone down, you will have a mass exodus from this State. My family will be the first to go.