

Submitter: Whitney Shaffley

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

I have lived in Oregon all my life. It is the place I call home, and the Rogue Valley is a beautiful area to live. I have seen the drastic change these past few years with increases in crime, homelessness, drug use, trash, unsafe trails and public walkways. The public library in Medford is riddled with spent needles, trash, human waste, and unsafe individuals. My 5 year old son and I no longer feel safe to use the library that our taxes help provide for. I have compassion for the homeless and the majority of them have severe mental illness and drug addiction. They do NOT need more leniency, they need clear boundaries, support for their mental illness/drug addiction, and law and order. For those of us who are not criminals, we need to be able to safely use public areas without frightening run-ins with the homeless who lead criminal lives. They have cornered my son and I in parking lots, outside of stores, screamed at my son for no reason, I have seen them defecate outside and inside a local store in Medford, Oregon. How is that safe for the health of others? Why are the interests of one group being honored above law abiding citizens? How can we let this continue to get worse? Hb 3501 will harm more people, businesses, and not solve any of the real, terrible issues we have in Oregon. Please, use common sense, get back to law and order, and start helping the homeless actually turn their lives around instead of loving them to death.