

Submitter: Dean Romine

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

Please do not move forwards with this legislation. This would be a colossal mistake in addressing Portland's homeless situation. Public spaces including parks are an essential resource for the people to use responsibly, and our sidewalks and streets must remain clear so that those with disabilities or other physical limitations can safely navigate the community. We can and should offer safety nets and services to those in need, but we can't surrender our public spaces to the small proportion of the homeless population who frankly do not desire to be good-faith members of our society. Encampments ruin communities and local businesses and are inhumane to their residents. Please redirect your efforts towards rebuilding and restoring our mental health institutions and bringing back involuntary commitment when necessary for those who cannot help themselves/are a danger to themselves and those around them.