

Submitter: Jorge Rosales

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed "Right to Rest" law in Oregon. While the concept of providing shelter and support to homeless individuals is certainly a noble one, I believe that this particular legislation is deeply flawed and will only exacerbate the problem it seeks to solve.

First and foremost, the "Right to Rest" law would create an enormous burden on taxpayers. The legislation mandates that municipalities provide basic amenities like bathrooms, trash cans, and drinking fountains to homeless individuals who are camping on public property. This would require a significant investment of resources and would likely result in higher taxes for Oregonians.

Furthermore, the law would encourage camping in public spaces, which would have numerous negative consequences. Not only would this lead to sanitation issues and increased litter, but it would also pose a public safety risk. Homeless encampments have been known to attract crime and drug use, and the presence of these encampments could deter tourists and businesses from visiting the area.

Finally, I believe that the "Right to Rest" law is misguided in its approach to solving the problem of homelessness. Rather than simply providing a place to sleep, we should be investing in programs that address the root causes of homelessness, such as addiction, mental illness, and lack of job opportunities. By providing individuals with the tools they need to succeed, we can help them break the cycle of homelessness and become productive members of society.

In conclusion, while I applaud the intentions behind the "Right to Rest" law, I believe that it is ultimately counterproductive and will only worsen the problem of homelessness in Oregon. I urge you to vote against this legislation and instead support more effective solutions to the issue of homelessness.

Sincerely,

Jorge Rosales