

I would like to add my name to the extensive list of Oregon residents who have expressed opposition to HB 3501. The consequences of such a proposal would serve to further the degradation of this state.

I have been a homeowner in Medford, Oregon since 2002. When I moved here there was relatively low crime. I felt safe taking pre dawn walks and jogging on the Bear Creek Greenway. As the years passed I witnessed the growing numbers of tents, trash, needles, and loitering in what are referred to as public places. These public places were becoming unsafe and often unsanitary. They were no longer places that the tax paying resident felt safe to visit.

The Public Library has become a taxpayer supported shelter for the homeless population. It's intended use as a place of learning and reading has become of secondary importance. Drug use, crime, loitering, littered "camps" scattered about the perimeter have become the norm. I, and many people I know, have ceased using this facility yet we continue to be required to fund it with our earned income. Perhaps a shelter in the vicinity of the library, rather than the library itself, would return this location to its valuable place in our city.

Please don't continue to enable the homeless population. Assist them to rise up, get off drugs, and find some purpose which will contribute to their sense of community. Zero tolerance for public "camping" may sound harsh to some people but it can be done in a humane way. The problem is getting worse very quickly and this city, maybe even this state, will not survive without a turn around on this dangerous path.

Please Vote No on HB 3501.

Thank you,

Susan Aupperle