

Submitter: Christopher Gilbert

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

To Whom It May Concern:

As a resident of North Portland where the city, county and state have allowed unsanctioned camping to occur for many years, I am in staunch opposition to this bill. While I recognize the goal of the bill is to help those who are struggling, I do believe it is misguided. The unsanctioned camping has turned our community into a magnet for crime, drugs and filth. There are frequent incidents of violence, drug overdose and loud altercations in these encampments. Because of this and despite being less than a mile from their schools, I no longer believe it is safe for my children to walk to school anymore past these large, unsanctioned encampments so I drive them to school each morning. I have a hard time understanding how allowing camping will have any positive impact on anyone in the community. Just making camping legal will not change any of the illegal activity occurring in the encampments. They are not safe for the individuals living there and they correspond with an increase in crime in the areas surrounding them. I strongly urge all to oppose this bill.