

Submitter: Michelle Kershaw

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

This bill is absolutely ridiculous. The homeless situation in Oregon has gotten completely out of hand and is driving people and businesses from the state. I rarely go downtown Portland any more because it is overrun to the point I do not feel safe as a woman walking alone. While I sympathize with people who have come on hard times I am appalled by the amount of trash and poor behaviors of many of the people who are currently "camping" on our streets. This bill would give excessive rights to this population at the expense of law abiding, tax paying citizens. Is there a contingency for near schools? In front of my house? It seems like our state has made it too comfortable to be homeless and are looking to make it even easier with squatter's rights and talk of more free money in addition to the services they already qualify for. What incentive do they have to work and contribute to society? I understand this is a complex issue but this is only going to make things worse. It will attract more homeless to the state, which will further alienate residents. Why not tackle mental health, drug addiction and/or affordable housing? Things that will solve the root cause instead of making the state even more attractive for homeless all over the country. I have lived here nearly my whole life and it has been sad and disappointing to watch my beautiful state turn into a dumpster. Clearly there is a better way than this ridiculous bill.