

Submitter: Sue Collins-Larson
On Behalf Of: the love of Portland
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure: HB3501

I want to express my opposition to HB3501. My reasons are two fold.

*First, I live in a condominium in close proximity to a Safe Rest Village. I am in support of this means of tackling the homeless crisis that we face in Portland. There is a worry that if HB3501 passes, it would nullify the safety protocols established for this village and others like it in Portland. Already, since the establishment of the Safe Village in our locale, there are breaches of the rules set in place to make the school and Village safe from encampments. HB3501 could make it a free-for-all.

*Second, I often take my grandchildren to the park to play. It is difficult for my grandchildren to use the park when it is considered a home to those who camp there. The bathrooms are unusable and the flagrant use of drugs and alcohol makes the park an unsavory place for little kids. I often say that "yes, the houseless have a right to a home, but they do not have a right to take possession of spaces that I consider mine as well." There is a high degree of unfairness.

I believe that this bill is a supposed answer to the City's plan to find housing and safe camping for those who are unsheltered. This is no answer!

Sue Collins-Larson