

Submitter: MICHAEL ROSA

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

Good Day Oregon Representatives and Senators,

I strongly urge you to oppose both HB 3501 Right to Rest Act and SB 603.

Specific to HB 3501, this bill fails to address the root cause of what is fueling our homeless crisis in our state: illegal drugs and specifically fentanyl.

Let's not sugar coat it. After reading this bill numerous times, this is simply an attempt to legalize dangerous and inhumane tent and RV camping in all our public spaces and label it compassionately as "Right to Rest Act". Passage of this bill will further embolden the service resistant who repeatedly refuse services and will end up using this as a legal tool. After two years of living by the massive Laurelhurst Park homeless encampment, I've repeatedly seen the open air drug market, people overdosing, used syringes and drug paraphernalia strewn everywhere, attacks on park goers by those in crisis, and the lack of public safety for both housed and unhoused in our public spaces. Yes, I have more experience dealing with this issue than I bet those who wrote this bill do.

HB 3501, in particular, is simply a misguided approach to homelessness. Passing these would be horrible public policy since it fails to address the crisis practically and realistically and would only guarantee to exacerbate the problem for all. We don't need new bills and legislation simply to make us feel good when they accomplish nothing.

Please vote NO!