

I strongly oppose HB 3501. We already suffer a homeless tent camping epidemic infringing on the rights of the disabled, families with strollers and young children, pedestrians, drivers, home and business owners. Trash and graffiti are seemingly everywhere, tents are already pitched willy-nilly on sidewalks, highway strips, next to people's homes and businesses, and in woodland areas. I see it when I drive my son to school, I see it when I go to the grocery store, I see when we ride the Max line. We've seen mattresses, plastic, tents, clothes, shopping carts and worse strewn down the hill and in the woods on family bike rides on the Spring Water Corridor North of Sellwood Riverfront park. My family has been approached while waiting for the Max line downtown by a woman asking if we would sell her, I think it was crack. On the same trip on the increasingly dirty Max train my 5 and 7 year old were treated to a guy shooting up with something. I've seen trash leaching from homeless encampments into the roads imperiling driver safety. On top of all of this I don't want to think about where all these people are going to the bathroom and what kind of sanitation nightmare that is. Legislation like HB 3501, guaranteeing the rights of people to camp in public spaces including city streets is the wrong direction and would encourage more of the same type of behavior. We need to be ending inhumane, dangerous public camping – not enabling it.