

Submitter: Valerie Brewer

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

To the Oregon legislature, while I understand and appreciate the intent behind the Right to Rest HB 3501 bill, I do not feel that it is in Oregon's best interests. Compassion is important, but so is order, cleanliness, public health and public safety. This bill will make Oregon's homeless situation even worse. Oregon is already a magnet for the homeless population from around the country. Other cities and states either send their homeless population to Oregon or unhoused people come to Oregon on their own volition, because of our lax legislation, and enforcement of said legislation. There are already huge areas of Oregon, where people do not feel safe to go due to homeless. There's increased crime, including violent crime, theft, and trash everywhere. It's sad and embarrassing. Public spaces no longer feel public anymore. As an Oregon citizen, it's shocking to see the changes. While I understand that the reasons for homelessness are many and varied, the response of the state should not be one of permissive encouragement. Business owners are moving out of cities and they will not return until it is safe and clean because consumers will not return until it safe and clean. HB 3501 is only going to make the problem worse. Ultimately, it is only a Band-Aid and not a real solution for those who find themselves unhoused, and it will come with many negative repercussions. Please vote no. Thank you.