

Submitter: Doug Henrichs
On Behalf Of: Self and spouse
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure: HB3501

I detested Rush Limbaugh. His arrogance, his politics, everything. But he would have been correct in calling supporters of this horribly misguided legislation "Compassion Fascists". That was one of his favorite epithets. You supporters of this idea, when you see a homeless person, do you go to them and invite them to come and camp in your front yard, your back yard, your driveway, your living room? No? Where's your compassion? Don't you care about them? If just 6000 people who support this legislation would each provide a place in their home for a homeless person then the problem would be largely solved. But of course they will never do that.

It is not compassionate, nor respectful to the homeless, to treat them as if they have no agency. The taxpayers and citizens of this state have shown tremendous support for all kinds of programs in trying to get the homeless off the streets. We see it as a horrible problem. And we are already going more than halfway to help, and many of the things that are being done are actually helping. This legislation is a slap in the face of Oregonians. It says that not only do we have to pay extra taxes and support the programs that are in place, now we have to abandon our streets to the crime and the filth and the drugs and the harassment and the noise in the middle of the night. It tells the homeless criminal that they do not have to live off the streets even if there is housing available.

Do you not recognize the growing and approaching backlash against liberal/progressive ideas because of this kind of nonsense? If this legislation passes, then you can absolutely count on turning Oregon red. Don't be so self-righteous as to think otherwise.