

Submitter: Catherine Caudle

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

I have lived in Oregon since the age of 2 I am now 56. During the 80's Oregon struggled when the mills shut down and whole cities shuttered. Families became homeless living in cars. Drugs were frequent not only what we all called Pot, but harsh drugs like meth was common place. During the 80's the aids epidemic took hold and people were scared to be around anyone afraid you would get aids. Today we have the pandemic, people are homeless, drugs are harsher and people are sleeping in there cars and tents. Many towns in Oregon never recovered from the mill's shutting down, but selling drugs put food on the table and paid the bills. Laws in Oregon were tough on crime and put the drug dealers in jail, but the want still continues today and now the drugs are supplied by Mexican cartel. People are dying of overdoses, living in filth, and committing crimes to obtain money for the drugs.

Why did people turn to drugs back in the 80's? The economy was horrible no jobs to be found, foreclosed homes, shuttered towns, selling drugs put food on the table and nearly everyone was receiving some form of support from TANF and weekly unemployment checks, food stamps would be traded for the drugs too. Today we have begun giving homeless \$1200 per month this is no different than what was done back in the 80's, many died of AIDS and overdoses too and yet today is no different.

HB 3501 is unconstitutional as it prevents and polices freedom of speech fining a person that wishes to use the same public lands as the defined homeless person and doesn't wish to be harassed either. I am not homeless and I wish to hike, use the park, walk on public walkways and not be harassed by a homeless person asking me for money, requiring me to pick up there left over drug needles, throw away there used toilet paper and other trash in order to use a picnic table, step over the sleeping bag on the walkways of our cities, fearing a hike because of being attacked by dogs living with the homeless in our forests.

I think of a song I learned as a child "this land is your land, this land is my land..." Do you remember it? Sounds like HB 3501 reduces rights of all to use all these public areas and gives rights to one segment of society of the rights of all. I urge you to vote no.