

Submitter: John Meissinger
On Behalf Of: Myself
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure: HB3501

I am vehemently opposed to this grossly incompetent bill being debated by our so called government. This bill as written will encourage and enable homelessness. It will also lead to an increase in people moving out of not just the Portland area, but Oregon as a whole. Businesses will shutdown, tourism will decrease even more, enrollment at Oregon universities will decline, public transportation numbers will decline. This bill will also lead to an increase in drug use and crime. It's a common fact that the majority of homeless people are addicted to drugs and are sometimes even selling them to our youth and the general public. At a time when hundreds of thousands of people are overdosing or even dying from fentanyl, this bill will only cause more people to die from fentanyl and other drugs.

I feel for the homeless people, I really do, but this isn't the solution. We have numerous nonprofits in Oregon that quite frankly do a better job at helping the homeless than our government. Organizations such as City Team and Portland Rescue Mission have a proven track record of helping homeless people get off the streets, get addiction and mental health help, and land good paying jobs. Instead of this dangerous bill, we should be hiring homeless outreach volunteers to distribute flyers directing the homeless to organizations such as city team and or Portland Rescue Mission.

I urge members of the Legislature to vote NO on this dangerous piece of legislation. I also encourage the general public to protest this bill by holding rallies at the state Capitol and around the state.