

Submitter: Megan T

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

It's hard for me to comprehend that elected lawmakers in Oregon would put forth a bill like this during a time like this in this state. Oregon residents have watched for years as the homeless population in this state has grown exponentially and has slowly ruined myriad aspects of public, from out of control campsites that grow without repercussion, to the trash they leave behind, to the needles and human waste that litter our streets. The homeless in this state face zero consequence for their actions and have no incentive to change their behavior, as this state continues to treat them with kid gloves as it legalizes drugs, decriminalizes camping, hands them free tents, and refuses to prosecute them for the laws that are still on the books. Oregon has thrown literal billions of dollars at this problem, and it has gotten no better. To introduce a bill codifying "rights" that give a segment of the population a legal right to opt out of the social contract that the rest of us must live by? Enough. This madness has to end. It is long past time to do something meaningful to actually help our homeless population instead of enabling them to continue living at the forefront of this dire humanitarian crisis. This law would do nothing to help the homeless and would only further enrage and drive out the beleaguered residents of this state. I cannot oppose this measure any more strongly.