

Submitter: Joelle Garcia

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

I'd like to strongly oppose this bill/measure.

It would be extremely abused by the homeless advocates that give handouts to the homeless in my community. It will be devastating to business owners and every tax paying citizen in this state. For example, if this was implemented a homeless person could camp on the sidewalk by my house, and I start my truck up to go to work in the morning he/she could sue me for 1,000 (that I don't have) because they felt "threatened". That will absolutely be abused, and it isn't fair to the citizens who actually deal with the homeless harassing them on a daily basis. I have to walk and be mindful when walking past a person that is homeless because I have been yelled at and a man threw a glass bottle in my direction once. I never go downtown because of the homeless, I don't go to the library because homeless occupy the outside of the building. Even just driving in town I have been harassed for no reason while I was at a traffic light. I don't take my child to the parks because homeless occupy the entire park, not to mention the drug paraphernalia and weapons that have been found in our parks. People don't feel safe here anymore and this will make things much much worse for the entire state.

This bill/measure will give these people so much power that was FURTHER destroy this state. It's already been destroyed with 110. This is absolutely not the answer, it is a band aid on a gunshot wound. It will not help the homeless population and it will certainly not help any citizen in this state. We do not want to be California 2.0! Not only crime but drug overdoses have been rising as well. They need help, they don't need to be enabled to continue their spiral downward. Perhaps if 110 was repealed and we brought back mental health facilities and more rehabs, that would make MORE changes that would be positive.

The rest of the country is laughing at us right now because of this. Even people in other states know that this will be devastating for us.

It will no doubt push more people to move out of Oregon, others will be stuck here because they couldn't afford to leave. I am someone who would be stuck here, and I have lived here my entire life. These radical policies have been hurting this state and people who live in rural areas and smaller towns are not okay with this. Our state is dictated by Portland and Salem, and it has been hurting us for years now, we are tired of this. The homeless population is a small % of the state, and they are being coddled and prioritized over hard working people. This is completely unacceptable, irresponsible and outrageous. Again, this will be devastating to everyone!

I encourage you to please listen to the majority on this, not the small number of activists who tend to be louder than us.

Please think logically about this and don't allow it to pass. This will hurt so many people and it doesn't solve anything. It won't solve the homeless problem; it will

cause more problems for businesses and citizens. When that happens, it will become an even bigger problem for the state legislation.

Again, I encourage you to shut this bill down and come up with BETTER solutions.

This is absolutely irresponsible and will solve nothing.