

Submitter: Rachel Prewitt

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

I recently moved to the Rogue Valley from Portland/Multnomah County to live in a community where our elected leaders understand that when you permit people to live outside with no accountability for their actions or to their community, the vast majority will fall deeper into a cycle of dependence on everyone but themselves, and they will take advantage of the spaces and services that tax-paying, law-abiding citizens fund.

Has allowing tent camping, or car/RV parking, in public spaces ever solved or improved homelessness or created a cleaner, safer environment? No, it has not.

If I want to "inhabit" a public space or park (rent a park pavilion for example), I am required to pay a fee (\$53 for 3 hours or \$83 for 3 hours w/alcohol), stay only my allotted time, obey all laws, and clean up after myself. Why would we hold certain individuals to a different set of rules?

This is not the solution. We've seen time and time again that all this will do is bring more drugs, trash, crime and human waste to the public spaces that tax-paying, law-abiding citizens pay for with hard earned money. Protect the tax-paying, law-abiding citizens who voted for you - put them first. Then find a better solution, one that actually helps someone improve their lives and become a productive member of society.