

Submitter: Marie Franklin

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

Dear Members of the Oregon State Legislature,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed "Right to Rest Act", which seeks to provide homeless individuals with unrestricted access to public spaces for the purpose of resting and sleeping. While I understand the good intentions of this bill, it is important to consider the potential negative consequences, particularly those related to safety.

One of the primary concerns with the "Right to Rest Act" is the safety of children who may be using public spaces. Unrestricted access to public spaces could lead to increased risk of harm to children who are playing or engaging in other activities in these areas. This could be exacerbated by the drug use and other criminal activities that are often associated with homeless populations.

In addition, there are concerns around drug use amongst the homeless population. Allowing homeless individuals to occupy public spaces without restrictions could result in increased drug use and associated drug paraphernalia in these areas, which could pose a threat to public safety.

Homeowners who live adjacent to public spaces would also be affected by the "Right to Rest Act". The bill could compromise their safety and security, particularly if homeless individuals are permitted to set up makeshift shelters and encampments near their homes.

Finally, the accumulation of garbage and human waste in public spaces is another significant concern related to the "Right to Rest Act". Without proper facilities and regulations in place, public spaces could become unsanitary and pose a risk to public health.

While the "Right to Rest Act" may aim to provide homeless individuals with access to safe and secure places to rest, it is important to consider the safety implications of this bill. I urge you to take these concerns into account and consider alternative solutions that prioritize safety for all individuals.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,
Marie Franklin