

Submitter: Tracy Proud, on my own behalf

Committee: House Committee on Housing and Homelessness

Measure HB3501

I STRONGLY oppose HB3501, on several grounds, firstly because this bill poses a direct threat to the health, welfare and safety of all Oregonians and it is the duty of our elected representatives and government employees to uphold these standards. I don't have enough paper and you don't have enough time to read all the ways this bill endangers not only homeless persons but also the tax payers, law enforcement personnel, our children and the rest of Oregon's citizens.

Secondly, if this bill were to be put into law it would be detrimental to property values, tourism, and the livelihoods of all Oregonians. Here in Southern Oregon I've seen firsthand the property destruction, theft and harm to law abiding citizens caused by many of the unhoused. I have family members who do not want to travel here to visit because they feel unsafe and view our area as a "dump".

Thirdly, many cities in Oregon already go out of their way to accommodate and assist people experiencing homelessness. For example Medford has taken over several hotels and renovated them to house many people. The homeless problem is not a problem of housing as much as it is a problem of mental illness and drug abuse and giving people the "right" to camp wherever they please does nothing to address the underlying problem. Oregon needs to spend the taxpayer money they have allocated to homelessness by funding drug rehabilitation and mental health facilities, not enabling more people to abuse the system increase homelessness.

The fact that I have to take time out of my work day writing a letter opposing this bill is incredulous. That this bill is even receiving a hearing is beyond belief. Is there zero common sense within the legislative body that this bill is even being considered?

The consequences of this bill passing are too great to imagine, but it's safe to say you would probably see a mass exodus of taxpayers OUT of the state we love to safer, saner states.

Please use all your discretion to KILL HB3501 today.