

Submitter: COLLEEN CHRISTENSEN

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

Homelessness has been an issue in cities outside Portland, including the college town of Eugene, where squatters living in RVs and in Jackson County. This has not only become a biohazard and fire hazard for our areas, but more importantly this is a safety issue. These camps are a breeding ground for drug and alcohol abuse as well as violence. The citizens of Oregon that have not chosen to be homeless but rather have circumstances forcing it use the services available to them to get back on their feet and choose a different path. The people that have CHOSEN homelessness continue to be a burden on the system with no active movement in changing their current situation. For a lot of these people this has been a chosen way of life or rather a lifestyle. This is a choice. Oregon has spent a lot of tax payers money to provide services and shelters to those in need and some choose not too. The growing amount of "homeless" people is causing anxiety for residents and tax payers. Creating a bill that will further limit our rights to protect what is ours and provide safety for our families' has gone to far. Taking away rights of productive tax paying citizens to further promote homelessness as a lifestyle does nothing to serve those in need. This is in no way a solution to the growing problem and should not be considered as such.