

Submitter: Jill Van Winkle
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Commerce and General Government
Measure, Appointment or SB1514
Topic:

Dear Chairman Meek and Members of the Committee,
My name is Jill Van Winkle and I am a resident of Multnomah County and someone who works daily in parks and natural areas. I am writing in strong opposition to SB 1514.

SB 1514 would repeal Oregon's statewide "objective reasonableness" standard that currently governs how local governments regulate the use of public property by people experiencing homelessness. This standard exists to ensure that restrictions are fair, balanced, and grounded in reality especially when people have nowhere else to go and day shelters are not enough.

Repealing this protection would make it easier for local jurisdictions to enact broad or punitive restrictions without guaranteeing shelter or housing alternatives. That approach does not solve homelessness. It increases instability.

I witness the impacts of homelessness every day in my work in natural areas as displaced folks are moved from sidewalks and other urban sites and end up in sensitive park areas. From my experience, enforcement-first policies displace people without creating housing, cause unnecessary stress to un-housed community members, create additional barriers for people seeking stable housing, and move scarce resources to enforcement rather than housing.

I urge you to reject SB 1514 and instead prioritize solutions that promote equity and dignity, and create lasting pathways to housing stability.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
-Jill Van Winkle