

Submitter: Helen Gill
On Behalf Of: Myself
Committee: Senate Committee On Commerce and General Government
Measure, Appointment or SB1514
Topic:

As a resident and citizen of Grants Pass, I have seen firsthand how homelessness can affect people and the community they are in. Our once beautiful town has been turned into a haven for the unhoused. You cannot walk down our main street in town without encountering someone who is living on the streets. So often they are disruptive and mentally ill. Driving to work one day I saw a man defecating on a busy public sidewalk not far from an elementary school. Is this what we want our children to see? And to have them think this is how grown adults are supposed to act? There was a homeless encampment near our business and they set a fairly large fire to the brush they were in that put both homes and businesses in danger. Now, our city has to have a fenced in homeless camp right across from city hall. It looks like a human zoo and I cannot image the awful conditions are for the people that live there. The people of this community are generous and kind and don't want to see anyone living this way. But we also have to take into account the needs of all the working, productive citizens who are making this city a good place to live. Let the community decide what the community wants and is willing to pay for and willing to tolerate. I support repealing the existing law to simply restore the local governments' ability to adopt public camping ordinance in line with their communities' values. Thank you.