

To whom it may concern:

I strongly oppose this bill. More funds need to be used to find transitional housing, addiction treatment facilities, and job training and placement for the homeless. I realize some of them need a hand UP (and there are resources for that which should be expanded), but many of them are just looking for a hand OUT. They are dangerous and allowing them to live in the parks that taxpayers pay for is simply not the answer. Our kids will no longer be able to play in these parks and regular citizens will be scared to walk through them. Just look at what happened in Powderhorn Park in Minneapolis or even Venice Beach. I live within walking distance to three parks and I worry about the drug dealing that will be going on all around me. I like to walk and bike through those parks, and will not feel safe to do so anymore. I have already experienced harassment in one park and have also seen someone shooting up right by the kids play structure, leaving his needle there by the bench. Allowing them to take over the parks will lower property values and livability for the people that are tax paying and law abiding citizens. There has to be another way. I should have the right to walk through the park and not feel threatened. Everyone already have the right to REST in the park, this bill would give homeless the right to LIVE in parks and leave their belongings and trash (sometimes hazardous), which is a huge difference. I hope everyone takes the time to look at the video that Oregon Parks and Recreation has submitted. Is this really what we want for our state? Give them HELP, don't enable them to be criminals and destroy more of our parks and open spaces.