

Submitter: Karen Hemmerich

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

To the Oregon legislature,

I write as a concerned citizen who lives in Beaverton, commutes to the east side of Portland for work, and frequently travel up and down I5 to Eugene. My family lives down in a coastal town, and in the last year homelessness has even visibly increased there. The local library has had to hire security due to vagrant's behavior threatening and scaring off local community members. A few years ago RV campers were destroying a local beach and threatening community members (to the best of my recollection this statement is accurate). It wasn't until the BLM restricted overnight camping and massive clean up efforts ensued that the public felt safe enough to return.

Homelessness is a deep rooted multifaceted issue that does not have a single simple solution. However, the last thing that our state needs to do is allow public tent camping.

The unhoused deserve compassion and support. It is NOT compassionate to allow people to live in their own filth, excavate hillsides, light fires that destroy property and cause death, litter their surroundings which is more than an eyesore but also a health hazard.

I used to walk my dog during lunches down a section of street, until those who were living there started discarding their used needles on the sidewalks next to a bus stop where school children frequent.

The state needs to address the homeless crisis, but granting free access to camp without penalty is not the answer. I suspect a note-able majority of Oregonians would agree this is not the solution or direction the state should be taking. Let's also not forget that the city of Portland has already been sued for violating the ADA.

I write on behalf of myself and my husband, we do NOT support public tent camping in any form or allowing those swept to sue for \$1000.

- a concerned Oregonian