

Submitter: Shelly Elliott

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

I strongly disagree with this proposal. I live in downtown Portland have seen and have had to deal with the ramifications this idea proposes. This city, this downtown, is dying and you want to try this again?!? And furthermore, throughout the entire state?!?!? The proponents for this bill are right, we can do better, but decriminalizing camping in public spaces is not doing better. Public safety issues, from ADA access to visible drug deals and use, and other lawlessness, is a real live result of this idea that is still happening. This idea was already done during the pandemic here in Portland, and that is what got this city to where it is today, as the 3rd to last major city in the nation to have recovered from the pandemic (i.e., it hasn't recovered, let alone thrived as time allows a city should over time). Do you really want our state to drop that low in livability compared with the rest of the nation?