

Submitter: Alexander Pierce

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

I oppose this entirely. Listening to your argument, losing your home whether or not it was due to your behaviors as a person or family does not make living on the street an acceptable option. The state should have resources and homeless people should be actively seeking out those resources or confronted by city officials to use those resources to get back into homes. This is the simple answer. I want to now explain the consequences that result from the neglect and indecisiveness of our state officials and law makers. I work all over the city of Portland and many others in the metro area. I have seen areas where tents surround the perimeter of an elementary school. Where do these people eliminate waste. I have seen stories of homeless people in people's yards and walking into people's houses. This is harassment, theft, and intimidation. People are scared and the state that should protect them does not. By allowing people to be homeless and encouraging it further with 3501 will result in more harm and deaths than which you aim to avoid. People will starve, and crime will increase. Other states have done much better to redirect people that lost their homes, have mental health issues, runaways, or just don't feel like getting a job by creating no loitering laws. People are expected to move along and therefore must adapt as humans are quite capable of. Set up services to allow people to transition into society and redirect them from the streets. The homelessness will depreciate over time and you can reduce these options instead of encouraging them. The longer it takes, and the more you encourage it, the harder it becomes to fix it later. It is an issue because you have allowed it to. There is homelessness everywhere, but why is it such a big problem here? Because you encourage it, and 3501 is just another way you will do so. Also, set up camps or other places that are a place for people to go until they transition or if they want to disconnect, but if you do this, you must make no loitering laws at the same time so people will take the option to move along. Camping out in front of people's houses, schools, and in front of people's businesses and harassing their customers, making difficult for them to make a living and provide for their families and the fear that results for responsible people because their state is afraid to act and carry out a plan is unacceptable.