

Submitter: Ethan frechette

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

I support establishing a set of measures and means of accountability to ensure homeless individuals maintain their constitutional rights. However, that should not come at the expense of public health and safety. An issue that is not addressed with this measure. Allowing camps in public spaces, without time restrictions and oversight, WILL place the public in danger and increase the foothold of criminal operations in Oregon, giving them autonomy to operate outside the legal system. This WILL also increase environmental damage and put public health/safety at risk. Portland's Bull Run watershed is already in crisis and struggling with high organic/non-organic toxin exposure levels. Human waste and pollution will only exacerbate this issue and set environmental efforts back decades. We cannot strip the public of their constitutional rights and place the public in danger so that we can become the "leader" in homeless rights. This measure is a bandaid that does not address the root problem of homeless; income and health disparities that benefit corporate or state functions. Why would we not continue to expand and provide renters' protections or work on lowering the astronomical costs of living in the Portland metro? Why not support efforts that increase public safety while establishing rights for the homeless? Oregon BLM has access to land that could be designated for temporary homeless camping. Why can't we partner with BLM to provide novel and sustainable changes that can then be expanded throughout the United States as it shows success? This weak proposal appears to be an effort to draw up attention and controversies. It is taking from the one hand, public safety interests, and giving to the other hand. This plan is not sustainable and is lacking in preparation, research, and evidence-based interventions.