

Submitter: Teriesa McClelland

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

Committee Members:

I am strongly opposed to this bill which will only increase the significant problems we have in our state, especially in the Portland Metro area. We are spending millions of dollars to support and help the homeless in our community. However, what we have in Portland is a nightmare for tax paying citizens and businesses. Take a look around Portland and one can see the issue. Tents and garbage everywhere often times making it impossible to safely walk on sidewalks or in some cases even safely drive because homeless camps were close to the roadways. Thankfully, Mayor Wheeler has attempted to curb that through his executive orders to stop camping near busy roadways.

Our once beautiful city is turning into a dystopian nightmare and this is not hyperbole. We have hosted out of state family members that live in large metropolitan area and they were shocked at the state of Portland. They have been here before and could not believe the decline.

I am very concerned for our neighbors that are homeless, but this proposal is insane. I believe it is now time to stop enabling drug addicts and those who chose to live on the street and to start thinking about those of us who live here, pay taxes and have a right to safety and well being as well. What good are our public places that we pay for if we can't use them due to the destruction that comes from homeless campers? Why must we see tents, garbage, needles, feces from campers on our public areas? This while our shelter beds remain empty.

I voted for measure 110 and have seen the rapid deterioration that has taken place since it became law. Measure 110 was well intended, but has resulted in extreme unintended consequences.

I am considered a die hard leftie by all who know me & I must call BS on this bill. Please consider ALL Oregonians and scrap this bill. We need common sense solutions and accountability for the dollars we are allocating to the homeless and this absolutely should not include legalizing camping on our public areas.

There is much more I'd like to say about this insane & detrimental bill, but frankly I am too angry that time is being wasted on this bill. Honestly, I can't believe it is even being considered.

Respectfully submitted,

Teriesa M McClelland