

Submitter: Bryan Noguchi

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

I'm sorry, but no. NO. NO. NO. We are at wits end in places like Portland, and this feels like a massive step backwards. Create more housing. Create more official camping spaces for the unhoused, but no not attempt to normalize an already abhorrent situation. I'm flabbergasted that this piece of legislation is even up for debate and am appalled that our elected officials feel that doing so is a good use of our time and tax dollars. Look, I am a Democrat and consider myself left of center - but enough of this! I work downtown. I ride my bike every day to work. The broken glass. The horrific camps. The human excrement. We've played nicely. We've played the empathy card. We have nothing to show for it all. Frankly the sweeps, even though I know they are probably mostly a cruel human shell game, have been the only thing that have been giving me hope for this town. It's time to start addressing quality of life issues for the rest of us. I have been to blue-state cities much larger than our own with very large populations of unhoused people, and their streets and downtowns are not fetid cesspools of failure. Whatever we've been doing has been a disaster, but the answer is not to decriminalize and normalize the conditions of that disaster. I'm lucky. My family and I could easily leave. But we do love this city and the state. But I swear to God - when I heard of this piece of legislation I actually caught myself thinking that maybe those "Greater Idaho" imbeciles are on to something. Stop wasting time and resources on legislation like this and start doing your jobs.