

Submitter: Zach Wright

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

Treating all people with dignity and helping provide a social safety net is an important role of government. However, the proposed legislation does neither. The current state of Oregon's houseless philosophy detracts from the rights of general public and gives carte blanche to the few individuals who abuse the expanded rights and privileges. On a daily basis, I see our parks and trails overrun with piles of trash and destruction from improper use (ie driving cars through trails.) Fires are common under bridges, along trails, and in RVs. As an Oregonian, I can no longer enjoy much of what our state has to offer due to the lack of consideration given to public spaces. We need policies that provide resources to those who need them and penalize those who act against the collective good by destroying our commons. On a personal level, this affects decision making that impacts our cities and regions. Our family is having a destination wedding rather than a local one because we are concerned for the safety and well-being of our guests. Oregon needs change, but this proposal is a naive, idyllic solution with very real, negative consequences.