

Submitter: Joe Hovey

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

How did this Bill even get to this point?! Our Primary Goal here in OR should be to eliminate Homelessness NOT encourage it. My gut reaction when first reading this Bill was "WHAT ARE THESE LEGISLATORS THINKING?"... THIS BILL BASICALLY WELCOMES THE HOMELESS FROM ACROSS THE NATION TO COME TO OREGON!" I truly wonder: Have these legislators lost their common sense?? My objections to this bill is that it in no way addresses nor offers solutions to the variable root causes of homelessness! And specifically, it does not provide a clear path for assistance for those experiencing homelessness due to mental / drug issues. In fact, it will only exacerbate the homeless issue. We already see what the homeless issue is doing to our State and our Cities/Counties ... and this bill only will make the issue worse. We should be focusing our energy, time and money on providing access to resources for those who are homeless, whether that be housing and / or access to mental health resources. As we all know, Oregon is already far behind in offering such assistance. In addition, this proposed bill is a slap in the face to those of us who pay high property taxes contributing dollars to solving this problem. I must say legislators who support this bill basically have no regard for the average hard working, tax paying citizens who live in the State. Bottom Line: this Bill makes no sense! We are already allocating billions of dollars to housing, managed safe spaces, etc. But then someone presents this bill that gives Carte Blanche to the Homeless. So then why would they ever want to move into a Safe Rest Village when they can just camp outside in public spaces! I absolutely OPPOSE this bill.