

Submitter: Ashley Heinkel

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

Passing this bill jeopardizes the safety of people in their homes and businesses, to allow homeless and often mentally ill people to erect not only a shelter, but also bring with it garbage, bodily waste like urine/feces, crime, drugs, and disease. When you allow "the right to rest" on any public property, you allow a host of other activity/behavior with it. This bill only accommodates homeless people and not person's with homes/businesses that are subject to constant crime/garbage/bodily waste because of said homeless people in front of their homes/businesses. With this bill there is no requirement for homeless people to dispose of their waste, including garbage/urine/feces. This bill contained nothing to prohibit fires from burning down people's homes either. Who is responsible for those costs? -Homeowners and business owner are expected to pay for things that homeless people destroy. That isn't equality either. This bill prioritizes the needs of people that often don't even pay taxes or contribute to society, but are only a drain on resources. Instead, taxpaying renters, homeowners, business owners are expected to compensate for the strain and pay for damages. Do better. Build a place for the homeless. Don't make other taxpaying/contributing citizens pay for and deal with YOUR inability to create infrastructure for homeless. For many homeless it is a choice to be on the street. So make them choose a different place to do that, not right in front of any where they want that affects the life/livelihood of others. This bill doesn't help the people AND THEIR CHILDREN that have to walk through garbage/human feces/needles just to access their own business or home. This bill doesn't outline what the city does for all the flat tires and bashed in windows happening across the city from homeless people. If you're going to legalize public camping for homeless, then you should also have a program that reimburses people for the crime caused by said camping homeless people when caught on camera. Where's the accommodation for that? For people looking at heaps of trash and broken down vehicles along the street because they aren't forced to move. How do you not see the injustice and lack of DEMOCRACY for everyone else in this decision? If homeless people aren't allowed to camp they will be forced to find other options and maybe even get their lives together. Allowing camping in public allows them to continue living this way and makes regular people subject to dealing with it. Homeless camping has ruined multiple parks, green spaces, and otherwise beautiful areas. This isn't a bill that in any way improves or cleans up the city. It only further creates unsafe environment for residents when homeless people now know they can stay wherever they want. It will now be that much harder to get someone to move their garbage heap from our front door. Thanks Portland for allowing this city to be overrun by the bottom of the barrel. Really makes a city better.