

Submitter: Mari Caplan

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

In Oregon and in Portland, many of the people who are living outside are struggling with serious mental health and/or substance addiction issues. These types of problems are exacerbated by living in unsafe and unsanitary camps or dilapidated and dangerous cars and RVs . It is incredibly inhumane that our community allows Portlanders dealing with these issues to live without plumbing, heat, and other basic necessities that should be standard for everyone in a wealthy country like ours. I fear that if this bill is passed it will allow local officials more latitude to simply shuffle campers from one site to another without being forced to spend the necessary time and resources to actually solve the root causes of people living outside. Portland used to pride itself on being a city that took care of its residents with innovative and sustainable solutions, but it seems in recent years like everyone just wants to assign blame and finger point. Our government should be building trust with the homeless and providing them spaces where they can safely rest that and get connected to supportive services rather than giving itself more legal paths to continue ignoring the problem.