

Submitter: Kallie Caito

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

The good citizens of Oregon are paying dearly for the state's lack of planning, funding, action for years and years. The majority of our homeless population is shipped here with one-way tickets. With the legalization of drugs, this compounds the issues we're facing in all neighborhoods. I have witnessed human waste on playgrounds, sidewalks, parks, etc, which increases the transmission of infections and bacteria (think Hepatitis A). An increase in crime, requiring local municipalities to offer grants for property damage that has caused thriving businesses to permanently close. As a manager of apartment buildings in the City, I've had said persons steal keys and fobs from USPS mail carriers, break into our properties, steal possessions from residents, cause property damage (think fires/explosions!), commit public prostitution, threaten pedestrians who don't pay for safe passage across public right-of-ways. I have personally had my vehicle broken into via window and windshield smashing twice because of the proximity to homeless camps.

The answer is clear - we would be headed down a path to being an unlivable metropolitan area if we allowed "rest," as you call it. As a housing provider, I've had fires, break-ins, and even stabbings in these camps that the police reminded me I would be responsible for clearing! This shirks the responsibility for government to take care of public spaces (specifically, ODOT), and places it in the hands of tax-paying citizens that want to enjoy walking downtown, parks, schools, and other public spaces that were once not marred by the presence of those committing crimes no one wants to deal with, but remain on the doorsteps of law-abiding people. Isn't it enough to pay the taxes to maintain these spaces and volunteer our time to keep them clean? This proposal is nothing short of insane.