

Submitter: Tracy Remington

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

Absolutely NOT! This is a horrible idea. I live in Portland and decriminalizing camping in parks will probably work about as well as decriminalizing drug use. I voted for that law change but I also thought treatment facilities, resources and money was going to be put towards rehab, counseling, housing, etc. Finish the shelters, use the money we are paying you to keep homeless out of the parks. ALSO, LET THE COMMUNITY KNOW HOW THEY CAN HELP. I shouldn't feel in danger walking my dog in a city park or down the SIDEWALK. I have to change my walking route frequently when walking my dog around North Portland. There was a man yesterday one block away Kenton Park having a mental breakdown. I had to reverse and walk all the way around the block to get to my destination. There was a lady on her front porch flagging me to go the other way because she felt I was in danger as well. I'm told not to confront them or even try to help them because with the drugs they take they are unpredictable. Parks are getting better, but it is a constant battle. You can't have UNLICENSED, Unregistered and uninsured vehicles flanking our parks. It should not take over 6 months to populate a motorhome parking lot that was finished in November 2022. Vancouver, Washington was able to do in about 1 month.

Homeless are destroying the trees and vegetation wherever they go. When a tree burns I don't see a new one being planted along I-5, roundabouts and even parks. Graffiti is getting worse again. Don't sell Spray Paint unless they have a license. I'd vote to change that law.

Coming up with legislation to decriminalize homeless in parks is not helping the situation. Again, ASK THE COMMUNITY FOR HELP. Tell us specifically what we can do. Do not let our shrinking green spaces turn into Tent Cities. If you want people who pay for these things to stay in the City and continue paying, then get more serious about solving the problem.

Sorry for this to be a catch all frustration dump but let's take some real steps to make Oregon the wonderful clean playground I've lived in my whole life. Tell us what we can do because giving more money does not seem to be the answer.