

Submitter: Nolan Nez

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

I will start with a quote from President Teddy Roosevelt: "No man is above the law and no man is below it; nor do we ask any man's permission when we ask him to obey it."

In short; the rule of law is what defines our society and once we have established the rule of law, no many is above it or below it and we don't ask someone's permission to enforce the law upon them. The rule of law is what makes us human - capable of reason and rational thought. Oregon's leadership has demonstrated a lack of the capability of reasoning for several years now. But this 'Right to Rest Act' takes the cake for misguided empathy. The 'Oregon Right to Rest Act' should not pass out of committee. Like Measure 110, it creates a problem with no real solution, and it will further exacerbate already endemic issues. I need not detail all of the news that comes out of Portland as we've surrendered the rule of law away to feelings instead of logic. We have resources for houseless persons. We have rules and regulations for our society. Stop enabling and start holding people accountable for their behavior. Businesses and residents are fleeing Portland and other areas of Oregon due to the already lax enforcement of public property laws, this would enable people to claim any spot as theirs, and this is not how a civilized society works. We have laws and rules, for a reason. We have seemingly endless resources to help people that are houseless. Come to Portland's shelters and look at how empty they are on a regular basis. They don't want to go to them because they have to be clean to be in them and they don't want that. Contrary to loud voices, there is a drug problem that goes hand-in-hand with the houseless problem. Fix the drug problem - hold people accountable. Despite 110, public use of illegal substances is still illegal. Enforce the law. Fix the housing shortage problem and enforce trespassing and property laws so that taxpayers' taxes are no longer going into a black pit where nothing is done and is instead discussed in committees and focus groups for decades. Stop coddling and start pushing people into the solutions we have available. Stop creating even more problems. This bill should never have been drafted, let alone come into a committee.