

Submitter: Z C

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

The Oregon Right to Rest Act must not be passed. Public camping is not a solution to the homelessness crisis in Oregon. First and foremost, it is inhumane and dangerous for the campers themselves. Makeshift campsites do not provide adequate shelter from the elements in the same way that temporary shelters and permanent housing do. Public camping in the city of Portland in particular is also a major problem for people with disabilities who require mobility aids, as dozens of campsites are located on city sidewalks, completely blocking pedestrian use. Homeless camping is also detrimental to the environment and has caused fires, explosions, and severe environmental degradation across the state. Establishing a right to camp would be like putting a bandaid on a bullet wound. It will significantly reduce the livability and safety of our state, particularly in the city of Portland where we bear the brunt of the homelessness crisis. What Oregon needs is enough temporary shelter and permanent affordable housing to shelter our homeless population so that we are instead able to permanently ban homeless camping and finally improve the livability of our state, and the city of Portland in particular. I have lived in Portland for nearly 20 years and I have watched the livability of this city diminish drastically. It is heartbreaking, and it needs to be reversed. The reversal of our city's demise begins with voting no on measures like the Oregon Right to Rest Act. Our public spaces are not the place for homeless camping - please BAN homeless camping once and for all and give homeless Oregonians real shelter and permanent affordable housing.