

Submitter: Tyler Ashworth

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

I am writing as a registered democrat and in opposition of HB 3501. I am not just saddened to see news of this proposed bill - worse it makes frustrated, angry, and tired to see this news. Oregon residents and taxpayers across the state, particularly in Portland, have no choice but to live in neighborhoods with sprawling tent encampments - filled with trash, overrun by open drug use, prone to crime and domestic disturbances at odd hours. It's leaving people with no choice but to leave the state - both longtime residents and businesses alike. Starbucks, Walmart, and most recently REI have all announced store closures in Multnomah county due to unsafe conditions brought on by our unchecked homeless population. There is an even longer list of small and locally owned businesses that are suffering and making the hard choice to close. All of this is brought on by laws that are so progressive they do more harm than good.

I shouldn't have to follow the above by saying I have a heart for the people living on the street - I do, they are people, they have rights - but without better restrictions put in place and more shelters, beds for homeless, and dollars spent to help solve the issue - expanding rights to camp is only going to lead to further urban decay and mass exodus.

Public spaces are no longer public when they are occupied by tent encampments filled with drugs, trash, and other behaviors that make the rest of the community feel unwelcome and unsafe. Nobody wins in that scenario.

Please reconsider or vote no on this bill. There are better bolder actions the state can take to help both housed and unhoused residents alike, this is not one of them.