

Submitter: Judith Dehen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

I am writing to support HB 3501 enthusiastically. I work in the mental health field and am horrified at the lack of competency and compassion shown by our Portland city leaders. It is extremely hard for my homeless clients to find shelter. We need to send a message to our local leaders that they are being paid to provide solutions to homelessness instead of excuses. I have clients dying on the streets. I had a female client die of hypothermia in a doorway this winter. One of my homeless clients just lost a toe to frostbite in the last month. My homeless clients are not on the street because they don't want housing. They beg me to help them find housing. It is very difficult to find housing for them even though all of my clients have income. But they are all disabled with schizophrenia or with bipolar, traumatic brain injury, developmental disability or dementia. I can bear witness to the fact that there are gaping holes in our social safety net. My hope is that this bill pressures our city leadership to use the funds made available to them to get these citizens housed.