

Submitter: Linda McConnell

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

My primary objection is to section 2e. I'm assuming the street in front of my house would be considered public property. RVs should not be allowed to park on public streets for sanitary reasons. I am a past owner of a 13 foot trailer with no built in bathroom and an 18 ft. trailer that did have a bathroom. I know from experience that a typical black water tank being used by 2 people needs emptying every 3 days and a porta-potti needs it even more often. Last time I camped in 2016, the only local dumping station for human waste was at Camping World in Gresham. Where will the RVs dump and who will enforce that?

Camping on residential sidewalks in Portland was trialed several years ago and did not last due to public outcry and that was before measure 110. I am a senior with vision and balance issues. I should also be allowed the dignity of being able to take a walk in my neighborhood or any public area without having to leave the sidewalk and put myself in danger.

I am not unsympathetic to the mental health issues of the homeless. I worked for the Social Security Administration for 24 years, with a focus for many years solely on disability claims, two thirds of which were for mental illness. I worked in Idaho for 10 years and in California in rural, urban, agricultural and border cities. I learned a few things and one of those is that those who choose to be homeless will go where there are fewer barriers to them camping where they want. Another is that those who use drugs, especially meth are unpredictable. The Boise Social Security office had an armed guard and an interviewing area separate from the desk work area and there were still incidents. The difference is that Boise, at the time, had a mental health support system that was much more accessible than Oregon appears to have.

Portland and Multnomah County have been working to provide various forms of shelter where homeless individuals can have on site services for sanitation and health issues. Allowing "right to rest" totally undermines this approach before it's even in place. This bill, in fact, appears to criminalize those who are not homeless with fines. Our local police are not responding to property thefts and home dwellers are being left to discourage or deal with trespassers on their space without police intervention. Check out the unofficial Portland Police Log on Twitter. Way more calls are shown as "cold" rather than priority.

I would guess that this measure will also increase homelessness in rural and tourist areas as well because local ordinances will not be able to override it. Those currently leaving the city for the more rural areas will possibly leave the state altogether and

tourism on the coast will dive as the homeless camp on the beach. Certainly, those of us who have supported measures for increased housing and shelters with our tax dollars are going to vote down any more bonds when we see our ability to enjoy public spaces and feel safe doing so is being diminished.