

Testimony opposing HB 3501, Right to Rest.

HB 3501 is an obscene insult to Oregon residents. When I say residents, I include people who reside in on private property, who pay taxes, who work, who raise families, and contribute to their community.

How about considering the rights of those people in public spaces? How about considering the right of my teenage daughter to go on a run without being harassed by drugged out men living in tents, huffing fentanyl and making lewd gestures to her? How about giving her \$1000 when she is harassed by men who gleefully disrespect her right to run in the street in peace.

How about giving me \$1000 to compensate me for the time an aggressive homeless man threatened me with a stick while I was walking home from my local coffee shop with a cup of coffee. Or the time a homeless man came onto my porch in the middle of the night and smashed the wooden chairs to splinters in front of my house.

How about giving my dog \$1000 and my husband \$1000 for the time an abusive homeless man chased them and threatened to kill them both. Or the time a homeless man trespassing on our property spit in my husband's face?

I have lived in SE Portland for almost thirty years and the last few years have been miserable. I was attacked by a homeless man who smashed my car window. My husband's truck was stolen and defaced. My daughter has been threatened. My dog has been threatened. My friend's husband was beaten in the head by a homeless man when he asked the man to move out of his doorway.

And now this proposal to give \$1000 to homeless people so they can do whatever they want in public spaces? Go ahead, this proposal says, take drugs, defecate, harass people, fight, spit, curse, masturbate, if anyone tries to stop you, you get \$1000!

Hey, the rest of us also have rights to public spaces, but the message is that our rights don't count. Where public spaces are concerned, some of us, who are homeless, have more rights than others. Sound familiar? Think back to your eight grade English class.

Homeless people do not have the right to occupy public space and do whatever they want. **By occupying public space with their tents, shopping carts, and tarps, they privatize the space. They dominate the space so others cannot use the space, and it is no longer public space.**

Portland is losing population. Portland has generous social services. Individuals who are living on the streets do so because 1. They want to so they can continue to take drugs which they are not permitted to do in shelters, and 2. Because Portland government officials permit it.

Vote no on this absolutely offensive proposal. How about supporting the rights of the people who actually pay your salaries rather than bending over backwards for the lawless individuals who have made Portland a dangerous, filthy, miserable place.

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